

the price

NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL

strike threat to BBC shows

350 members of the Association of Broadcasting Staff are in action in protest at the firing of a technician after a fight with a technician and a port manager.

rigger has been charged assault, and the union is ending his reinstatement in the outcome of the case.

11 for debate 'brutality'

is of police brutality. A terrorist suspects at the rearguard centre, Northern Ireland, have led to a full debate on Ulster and agency powers.

Government has decided the allegations made in the London Weekend Television programme as "another thin disguise" for a full attack on the Royal Constabulary and the

es forecast

average household rates bill up by 17.5 per cent in 1979, according to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants. Inner city rates are likely to rise 1 per cent, while Wales 26 per cent increase.

ha promise

African Premier Piff has promised to bring the report of the Commission on the Information Department, the threat by its chief, Dr Eschel Rhondia, to his side of the story.

with unopposed

of Rhodesia's main political parties, plan to put up a candidate for the 28 white seats in next month's election. The candidate is Ian Smith and his Rhodesian Front. Page 2

der fighting

am said that fierce fighting is continuing near the border, one Chinese troops were killed rather than retreat. The country renewed its bid for an immediate withdrawal of Chinese forces.

ice talks

ab League committee met in North Yemen capital in a bid to resolve the conflict between North and Yemen. Page 2

nb protest

bombs exploded in a, apparently in response to a demand for Corsican independence who set off 34 in Corsica and Paris on night.

fly . . .

people were killed in falls: Lake District mountains, badly damaged part of busy prison on the Isle of

has broadcast its first son commercial.

men died when their light ft crashed in the fog in ham harbour, Sussex.

in of West German cargo Jasmin, was feared ed after the vessel sank north-west Spain.

n's oldest chapel near north, Cornwall, is to be l in sand because cash- t be raised to restore it.

m not police used tear gas trol about 1,000 Flemish ts demonstrating against h speakers.

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UK's export edge hit by sterling and labour costs rise

BY PETER RIDDELL, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

The competitive position of British goods has deteriorated significantly in the last six months, according to the indicators officially used for studying prospects for exports of manufactured goods.

This is the result of a combination of a firm—and recently rising—exchange rate and unit labour costs continuing to rise faster in the UK than abroad.

There are, however, no signs yet of any shift in the Government's policy of trying to keep sterling stable.

There are several indicators of competitiveness. Those based on relative export and wholesale prices between the UK and its main trading partners have been unfavourable for some time, while the last six months have seen the erosion of the UK's competitive edge as measured by the competitive unit labour costs. Both the International Monetary Fund and Government economists regard this as a useful pointer.

Confederation of British Industry economists' estimates suggest that by the end of 1978 the UK had lost any margin given by the fall in the exchange rate last spring and had lost more than three-quarters of the edge secured during 1976.

Preliminary calculations for the first three months of this year indicate the relative labour cost position could soon be back to the early 1976 level, which was then regarded as uncompetitive.

Sterling is now at the same level as 12 months ago, as measured by the trade-weighted index against a basket of other currencies, while there is a gap of roughly seven points between the 13 per cent rise in unit labour costs in the UK and the increase in the seven biggest industrialised countries.

These figures have intensified a continuing debate within Whitehall. Those officials most concerned with the industrial strategy and trade press the claims of a competitive exchange rate while those involved with counter-inflation and monetary policy have been arguing what is known as the virtuous circle view.

This is essentially that a strong and/or stable exchange rate contains inflation both directly by holding down import costs and indirectly by affecting export prices and profits and hence the ability of companies to pay higher wage increases. The hope is that by limiting inflation this will lead to a virtuous circle of improved economic performance.

There has never been a clear-cut split between the two

views. But in spite of doubts in parts of the Treasury, the predominant opinion is that the major switch of policy in 1977-78 towards maintaining a stable rate should be given a chance to work.

This has been strongly urged by Mr. Gordon Richardson, the Governor of the Bank of England, while Mr. Denis Healey, the Chancellor, has repeatedly expressed scepticism.

There is now much more emphasis on problems on the supply side and non-price influences on competitiveness.

It is, however, recognised that the increased demand for sterling in foreign exchange markets in the last month could create problems in reconciling the goals of fighting inflation, maintaining competitiveness and containing the growth of the money supply.

But the strains are not nearly as serious as in the autumn of 1977 since the demand for the pound over the last month has mainly been reflected in the rate—up 21 per cent since early February—with only limited capital inflows so far. So there is no immediate threat to monetary control.

Liberals and SNP seek 1p tax cut

By Elinor Goodman, Lobby Staff

The Scottish Nationalists and the Liberals are likely to try to force a reduction of 1p or more in income-tax during the debate on the Budget next month.

The nationalists are expected to make their intentions clear today at the start of a week during which the parliamentary constraints on Mr. Denis Healey, the Chancellor, should become clear. At the same time, the Government is expected to make informal contacts with the Opposition parties—including possibly the Conservatives—to see whether there is any possible room for compromise over devolution.

It had been thought the difficulties of getting a Budget through the Commons might force the Government into a spring election but now both Ministers and Shadow Cabinet members seem to be acting on

Qatar wants OPEC to fix gas prices

BY KEVIN DONE, ENERGY CORRESPONDENT, IN DOHA, QATAR

THE GULF state of Qatar is pressing the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to take an active role in setting world prices for other hydrocarbon products besides oil, such as liquefied natural gas.

Sheikh Abdel-Aziz, Minister for Finance and Petroleum, said at the weekend: "OPEC is studying gas prices. We have to come to a solution. We must have a foundation for a price and a formula for selling. To safeguard future prices they must be controlled by OPEC."

The long-term development of Qatar's economy will become increasingly dependent on liquefied natural gas exports once the country decides to go ahead with the four to five year development programme of its massive North West Dome field.

This field could have reserves in the order of 100 trillion (million million) cubic feet. It is one of the largest gas fields yet discovered and is in the same league as the huge Groningen onshore gas field in Holland.

Qatar, one of the smaller Middle East producers, was one of the first OPEC countries to announce special surcharges last month following the halting of oil exports from Iran. That prompted a wave of similar increases from other producers.

Sheikh Abdel-Aziz said the world oil market was "very encouraging" for light crude producers to impose further surcharges above OPEC selling prices in the next quarter.

OPEC countries' interest in setting a world market level for gas prices is bound to increase rapidly as new developments to exploit both independent gas fields and associated gas produced along with crude oil, begin to come into production in countries such as Qatar, Abu Dhabi and Saudi Arabia.

But they could face difficult problems in fixing prices because, unlike crude oil, prospective LNG customers also need to invest massively in terminals and pipelines before they can make use of the fuel.

Sheikh Abdel-Aziz repeated the attack on the international oil companies made by several OPEC members recently for making "big marginal profits" out of the present shortage of gas supplies in the world market.

Companies were making marginal profits of as much as \$10 a barrel, he said, by selling crude bought at OPEC prices on the spot market in Rotterdam, Japan or New York. If the market continued to show that it could absorb the extra premiums introduced in the recent weeks—Qatar brought in surcharges of about 7 per cent or up to \$1.02 on its crude production last month—there would be a further increase in the next quarter.

For the longer term, Sheikh Abdel-Aziz warned that world inflation rates had to be cut if he said, was for the oil companies to impose further surcharges above OPEC selling prices in the next quarter.

Doubts over Beun's coal proposals Back Page

Carter to receive Israel Cabinet decision today

BY JUREK MARTIN AND DAVID LENNON IN JERUSALEM

THE ISRAELI Cabinet will this morning hand President Carter its decision on the latest proposals towards an Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement, which the U.S. President is negotiating in Jerusalem and Cairo.

Mr. Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, called the Cabinet into special session late last night after a full day of discussions with Mr. Carter.

Neither Mr. Begin nor Mr. Carter would disclose the substance of their talks but Mr. Begin said he assumed that Mr. Cyrus Vance, the U.S. Secretary of State, would return to Cairo with the latest Israeli position today.

As in Cairo, Mr. Carter has made no attempt to minimise the difficulties of working out a settlement.

"Important issues," he said, "still remain to be resolved."

Mr. Begin also referred to "serious problems," and said that some outstanding issues were still no more than ideas.

There is little doubt that the single most intractable issue concerns the future status of Palestinians living on the West Bank and in Gaza. In a speech to the Egyptian Parliament on Saturday, Mr. Carter had drawn warm, if predictable, applause when he said that he was personally committed to progress towards local autonomy in those regions.

President Sadat has attempted to link Egypt's observance of the terms of the Israeli-Egyptian agreement, particularly on the timing of Israel's withdrawal from Sinai and on the exchange of Ambassadors, to Israel's firm

commitment to a timetable for negotiations on Palestinian autonomy.

Several Israeli newspapers reported at the weekend, presumably from Government-inspired leaks, that if Egypt wants to delay establishment of full diplomatic relations, Israel might propose that the deadline in the bilateral agreement be lengthened and that, for example, the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai be stretched out to six years from three as laid down in the Camp David accords.

If so, that would reinforce Arab doubts about Israel's willingness to entertain serious negotiations on autonomy.

It is assumed here that the latest Egyptian modifications, presented to Mr. Begin by President Carter, concentrate on autonomy. The U.S. sees that as the core of the issue and tends to feel that other matters, such as military and economic assistance to both nations and Egypt's willingness to sell oil from the Sinai fields to Israel, can be resolved later.

At this critical stage in the negotiations, it is hard to gauge the chances of success. Pessimists, however, tend to predominate. They note that an occasionally favoured tactic of Mr. Begin is to have his Cabinet, in effect, take controversial decisions for him, as he did when he first rejected Mr. Carter's invitation to a second Camp David summit.

Much may, therefore, depend on the nature of Mr. Begin's presentation to his colleagues.

At the same time, in Cairo, there was a discernible drop on Saturday in the level of Mr. Sadat's optimism. In sharp contrast to the day before, when he had proclaimed that "we are on the verge of an agreement," he admitted that obstacles remained and generally seemed less ebullient than usual.

Devolution 'dead'

LABOUR now accepts that devolution during this Parliament is dead and the best it can do for the policy is to include it in its next election manifesto.

This became clear at the weekend when union delegations at Labour's Scottish Conference in Perth dropped demands for the Scotland Act to be implemented.

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the assumption that, provided the overall effect of the package is fairly neutral, the Government should survive the vote on the resolutions on April 9.

Only if the Chancellor tries something really controversial—and in the circumstances unexpected—like an increase in income tax or a move to repeal the clause which increases personal income-tax allowances in line with inflation, do the Opposition parties look fairly certain of uniting to defeat him.

Mr. Healey could also encounter problems if he tried for a big increase in the employers' national insurance contribution, but the Conservatives might be inhibited from outright opposition to this by the knowledge that if the Government lost one of its fundamental proposals for raising revenue, the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement would have to go up.

The real problems for the Chancellor look like coming after Easter when the Commons starts detailed examination of the Finance Bill. At this stage, Continued on Back Page

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Euro-summit to focus on jobs and energy

BY MARGARET VAN HATTEM IN PARIS

EEC HEADS of Government are expected to focus on energy and unemployment problems at their two-day meeting beginning in Paris today.

With Britain moving towards a general election and Belgium and Italy currently without Governments, the Community leaders do not appear ready to take on any big new initiatives.

Their last—the European Monetary System, devised to stabilise EEC currencies—proved sufficiently difficult to launch, although its formal beginning this week will probably be announced at the meeting.

The threat of oil shortages and steep rises in oil prices resulting from the upheaval in Iran, which has cut EEC supplies for the first half of this year by an estimated 6 per cent, are expected to figure prominently in the talks.

The EEC is under pressure to cut oil imports, in line with last week's decision by the 20-nation International Energy Agency to reduce demand by 5 per cent—2m barrels a day.

With 6m unemployed in the Community, the meeting is expected to discuss co-ordinated measures to alleviate social problems in areas particularly hard-hit by unemployment.

EEC employment ministers met in Paris over the weekend to discuss these problems.

Editorial comment Page 16

Arabs put on pressure

BY HANAN HAJAZI IN BEIRUT

ARAB and Palestinian pressure is mounting to head off any signing of an Egyptian-Israeli treaty.

Saudi Arabia is reported by one Kuwaiti newspaper as having sent a warning to President Sadat that all Saudi aid to Egypt will be discontinued from the moment a treaty with Israel is signed.

Three Saudi newspapers told President Carter there could be only one solution to the Middle East problem—the total Israeli withdrawal from Arab territory occupied in 1967.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation was unimpressed by President Carter's call on the Palestinians to join the peace negotiations.

Mr. Yasir Arafat, PLO chairman, sent urgent messages to Arab heads of state calling for concerted Arab action to foil "the conspiracy against the Arabs and the Palestinians."

EEC 'out-negotiated' on textiles

BY RHYS DAVID, TEXTILES CORRESPONDENT

TEXTILE INDUSTRY leaders in Europe are expressing concern that the EEC Commission has allowed itself to be seriously out-negotiated in the GATT Tokyo-round talks with the U.S. on textile tariffs.

National Governments and the EEC authorities in Brussels are being warned that the Commission's over-eagerness to secure agreement with the Americans has enabled the U.S. to dictate the terms of the deal, nearing agreement after months of offer and counter-offer.

The result, the industrialists claim, may be to give the Americans, still maintaining far higher tariffs than the EEC industry, the chance to increase exports to Europe while still heavily protecting their own market.

European manufacturers had hoped that the talks would lead to a much greater degree of harmonisation of tariffs, bringing those in the U.S. much closer to the lower levels operated by the EEC.

The U.S. industry's strong lobby at Congress prevented this, and whereas the EEC has

the-board cuts, those offered by the U.S. Government are selective and guaranteed to do the U.S. industry least harm.

The latest U.S. offer was received earlier this month. Though the Council of Ministers meeting last Monday asked the Commission to seek improvements, the authorities in Brussels are thought to think the present deal as good as possible.

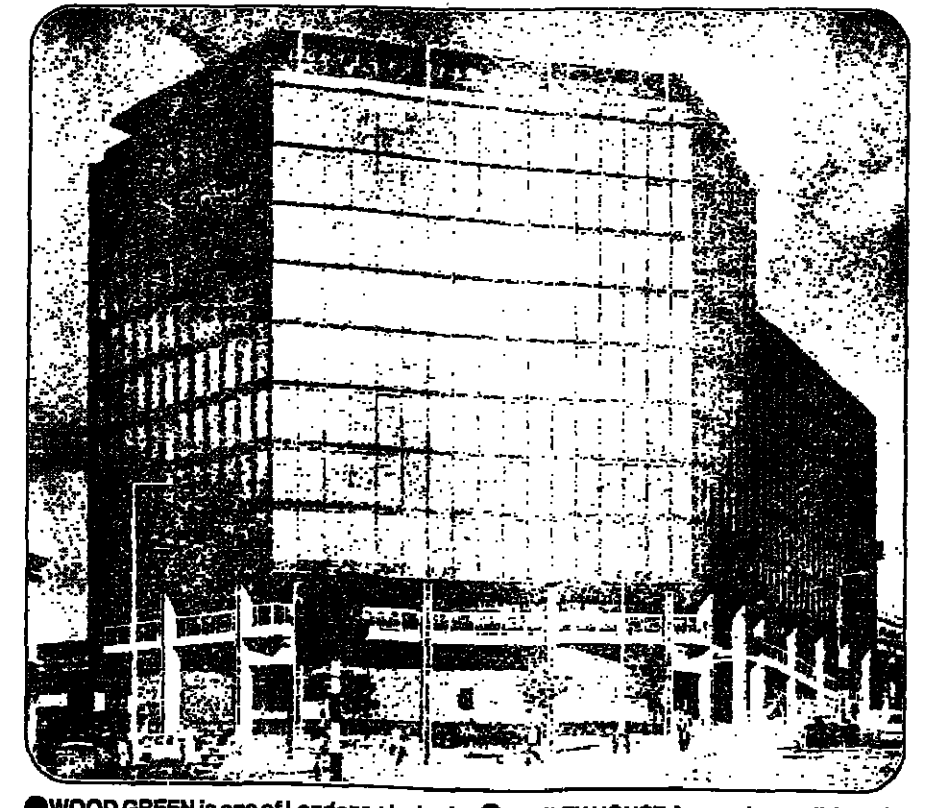
The Commission is thought reluctant to push the Americans any further because of possible risks for the whole Tokyo round.

Officials of Comitextil, the organisation which represents Common Market textile industries, met Viscount Etienne Davignon, European Commissioner for Industry, last month suggest the likely consequences of accepting the American offer, but evidently failed to persuade him of the need for a tougher line.

The net effect of the U.S. offer, the European industry claims, will be to reduce U.S. tariffs from 45 per cent higher than European tariffs to 35 per cent higher, on average.

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OVERSEAS NEWS

Elections closer in Italy after parties disagree

BY RUPERT CORNWELL IN ROME

CHANCES OF avoiding early general elections in Italy this spring effectively vanished over the weekend with a fresh wave of violence and with what looked like a final breach between the Christian Democrats and the Communists (PCI).

The collapse of any lingering hope of a new understanding between the two largest parties, supported by nearly 75 per cent of the electorate, makes it virtually certain that the government to be formed by Sig. Giulio Andreotti, the Prime Minister Designate, will fall in Parliament.

In that case his stillborn administration would have the job of presiding over elections—possibly on either May 8 or May 13—more than two years before Parliament's five-year term was due to expire in June, 1981.

However, the parting of the ways between Christian Democrats (CD) and Communists has been overshadowed by a renewed series of terrorist activities up and down the country, almost exactly one year after the kidnapping and murder of

former Premier, Sig. Aldo Moro, by the Red Brigade.

The most serious was in Palermo where on Friday night gunmen from the Prima Linea (front line) urban guerrilla group ambushed and killed Sig. Michele Reina, the provincial organiser for the Christian Democrats. It is the first time that terrorist, as opposed to Mafia, violence has appeared in Sicily.

Prima Linea also claims responsibility for the murder of an 18-year-old student in Turin. Meanwhile political terrorists may have been behind the kidnapping in Rome of a local CD official Sig. Emilio Falco who was released yesterday after a gun battle in the southern city of Potenza.

The rift between Christian Democrats and Communists was sealed when Sig. Benigno Zaccagnini the Christian Democrat secretary described as "unacceptable" the conditions laid down by the PCI for their endorsement of a government containing Left-wing independent ministers.

At a meeting with Sig. Andreotti, the Communist

leader Sig. Enrico Berlinguer in principle accepted the idea of Left-wing independents, whose inclusion in an administration had provided a glimmer of compromise.

But he coupled this with demands for the direct entry of Communists into a number of regional governments alongside the CD, full agreement on a policy programme, and an end to the distribution of cabinet posts to suit various factions within the ruling party.

With both major parties now wedded to the idea of early polls and whatever the danger of a new terrorist wave, the probable sequence of events is as follows:

Sig. Andreotti is expected, upon his return from the EEC summit in Paris today and tomorrow, to make his formal proposals for the government either on Wednesday or Thursday.

Assuming Sig. Andreotti is voted down, it would only remain for Sig. Sandro Pertini, the President, to sign the decree dissolving parliament. Elections must then be held between 45 and 70 days later.

U.S. planes 'embarrass' the Saudis

By James Buchan in Jeddah

AS TWO U.S. Airborne Warning and Aircraft Control Systems (AWACS) arrived in Saudi Arabia over the weekend and the aircraft carrier USS Constellation steamed toward the Gulf, the Saudi Press took an increasingly hostile tone on the escalation of U.S. involvement in the Arabian peninsula.

The AWACS arrived from Okinawa on Saturday. U.S. officials confirmed to monitor aircraft activity in the border crisis between North Yemen and Marxist South Yemen. The Constellation is due to arrive on Wednesday.

The Mecca newspaper Al-Nadwa said that with the despatch of the Constellation "the United States is embarrassing its friends." The "outdated action" would give the Soviet Union a pretext to "send its warships from the Indian Ocean to South Yemen."

While the comments were clearly related to reservations about President Carter's new round of proposals for the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, there was thought to be official disquiet over the lack of consultation over the despatch of the AWACS.

Richard Johns adds: The Saudi Government is in an awkward predicament. It feels the need for U.S. support but is embarrassed about it at a time when President Carter may be on the verge of bringing about an Egypt-Israel treaty unacceptable to most of the Arab states with which the kingdom has aligned itself.

Michael Tingay writes from Sanaa: Arab foreign ministers arrived here yesterday to try to settle the conflict between the two Yemens as North Yemen said that its troops had crossed the border and surrounded rebel and South Yemeni positions.

The Arab League's ceasefire committee continued talks aimed at implementing the ceasefire which has clearly not held. Reports of the fighting are sketchy but North Yemeni forces appear to have established themselves in positions from which they can prevent the retreat of the rebel National Democratic Front and South Yemeni forces.

The foreign ministers of Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, and Syria were expected in Sanaa yesterday, as well as the PLO.

Teamsters pay talks pose test for Carter anti-inflation policy

BY JOHN WYLES IN NEW YORK

THE CARTER Administration's economic policies are facing a stern test over the next week or so with trucking industry pay negotiations moving into a critical phase against the background of fast running inflation.

When it launched its pay and price restraint guidelines last October, the Administration hoped to be able to point to some progress in slowing the rate of price increases by the time the truckers' pay talks moved into their final stages. But the lack of achievement was underlined by last week's publication of a 10 per cent annual rate of increase in wholesale prices during February.

The Government has looked no more effective on the legislative front where its proposals

to insure the wages of workers who have settled within the 7 per cent guidelines against a higher than 7 per cent inflation rate are stalled in the Congress.

As a result the Administration is fast realising that it has little with which to encourage the Teamsters' union, which represents 300,000 truck drivers, to make a moderate settlement when its current three-year contract expires on March 31.

If the Teamsters settlement does seriously breach the guidelines then the President has little hope of securing the 7 per cent annual pay and benefit increases looked for from negotiations over the next few months in the rubber, food processing and automobile industries.

According to reliable, but unconfirmed, reports, at the end of last week the Teamsters spelled out their pay demands for the first time, amounting to increases in pay and benefits of between 35 and 38 per cent over three years. This is anything between 10 and 15 per cent higher than would be permitted by President Carter's pay guidelines.

Mr. Frank Fitzsimmons, the Teamsters president, is believed to be anxious to avoid a confrontation with the Administration. But he is also acutely aware of the difficulties of selling a moderate package to his members without any signs that inflation is being curbed and when union militants are campaigning for a guideline-busting agreement.

Botha hits back at Rhodie

BY QUENTIN PEEL IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICA'S Information Department scandal, over the secret propaganda war waged by Dr. Eschel Rhoodie, the Department's former chief, has suddenly resurfaced as a threat to the stability of the National Party Government and the new Prime Minister, Mr. P. W. Botha.

The threat of disclosure by Dr. Rhoodie of his side of the story, and detailed allegations by him of Cabinet complicity in the affair, have galvanised Mr. Botha and his Cabinet colleagues into a counter-offensive against both Dr. Rhoodie and Opposition newspapers publishing his story.

At the same time the deep divisions which the scandal has opened up within the ruling National Party—forcing the resignation of Dr. Connie Mulder, the former Information Minister, but also de facto leader of the party's conservative wing—have caused the expulsion of a leading MP of the more liberal faction.

Mr. Botha issued an angry statement at the weekend, promising to bring forward the report of the Erasmus commission of inquiry into the former Information Department and to instruct the commission to investigate the "unequivocal smear campaign" being waged by Dr. Rhoodie and the Opposi-

tion Press. He also gave a clear indication of the embarrassment the scandal, concerning the mispending of huge amounts of money earmarked for secret projects, is still causing his regime by attacking Dr. Mulder himself. "It is now clear to the country on what sort of friends Dr. Mulder used to waste the country's money through irregular means on schemes which they would not

allow to see the light of day," he said.

He was joined in the counter-offensive by Mr. Jimmy Kruger, the Minister of Police, said by Dr. Rhoodie to have confirmed that the Cabinet knew about the Information Department's activities before the general election of November, 1977. Mr. Kruger announced that he intended suing the newspapers which carried the claim.

Rhodesian Front set to win uncontested poll victory

BY TONY HAWKINS IN SALISBURY

MR. IAN SMITH'S ruling Rhodesian Front is expected to take all 28 white seats in next month's Rhodesian elections without a contest. Nomination day is today and all other political parties have said they will not be contesting the white seats.

The liberal National Unifying Force, which disagrees with the internal settlement and does not like the 1979 constitution will not be putting up any candidates and the four domestic nationalist parties have decided to stay clear. A month ago, Bishop Abel Muzorewa's United African National Council (UANC) was promising to

fight at least half the white seats but it has decided against it.

Opposition politicians and nationalist leaders here are privately appalled at Mr. Smith's apparent belief that he can trade his own retirement from politics for international recognition. Some observers here believe that Mr. Smith's continued presence in the multi-racial government after the voting will make it more difficult than ever to bring together the internal and external nationalist at some conference aimed at ending the war and producing a revised constitution.

Laos seeks to break China ties

CHINA SAID yesterday that Laos, under Soviet and Vietnamese pressure, has torn up Sino-Laoian agreements and demanded that China end its aid projects in Laos and withdraw its experts, AP reports from Tokyo.

A commentary in the official newspaper, People's Daily, broadcast by the official news agency, accused Vietnam and the Soviet Union of "enslaving the Lao people."

The commentary added: "To clamp down on the Lao people's resistance and step up their control of Laos, the Vietnamese authorities deliberately spread the lie of the so-called Chinese preparations for a 'war of aggression' against Laos in order to find a pretext for themselves to take action."

Amin counter-attacks

Conflicting reports of the fighting in Uganda are coming into Nairobi, but it is clear that President Idi Amin is continuing his counter-offensive against Tanzanian troops and Uganda rebels who have been trying to reach the capital Kampala, John Worrall writes from Nairobi. During the week-end Uganda radio claimed the enemy had been pushed back well over 70 miles from Kampala.

Afghan rebels unite

Three extreme Muslim rebel groups fighting in Afghanistan claimed yesterday that the socialist regime of Mr. Taraki was in control only of Kabul and major urban centres in the country and only "one last push" was needed to make it fall. Chris Sherwell writes from Karachi. In an unprecedented press conference in Rawalpindi, the three groups—usually rivals—declared that they shared a common goal of overthrowing the Soviet-backed Taraki regime.

France Chad pull-out

France has ordered the evacuation from Chad of all military dependents, and advised all French civilians to leave the country, torn by a month-long civil war, AP reports from N'Djamena. Several hundred Europeans, mostly French, were airlifted out of N'Djamena last month shortly after fighting broke out in the city.

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Italians seek Iran oil contract

BY ANDREW WHITLEY IN TEHRAN

SIG. GIORGIO MAZZANTI, chairman of the Italian state oil company, ENI, left Tehran yesterday after two days of talks apparently aimed at promoting the independent oil companies in Iran following the election of the Western consortium, Iranian Oil Participants (IOP).

Sig. Giulio Tamagnini, the Italian ambassador, said ENI was negotiating for medium- and long-term supplies. It was not a "spot sales" customer like most of the other foreign oil concerns now crowding into Tehran. The founder of ENI, Sig. Enrico Mattei, attempted to join the consortium when it was set up in 1954, but was snubbed.

A spokesman for the National Iranian Oil Company said the talks had not reached any firm conclusion.

ENI has a stake in two crude production joint ventures, SIRIP and IMINICO, and has bought Iranian refined products. Five tanker loads of crude oil

have left Iran since exports started again a week ago, the two latest going to unnamed Japanese and American companies. The NIOC spokesman said they were small, direct customers of Iran.

In a reversal of previous policies, Mr. Hassan Nazih, the new chairman of NIOC, was reported to have said that domestic petrol and kerosene prices are to be reduced to nominal levels after March 21, the Iranian new year. Top quality petrol presently costs 33p a gallon.

Anthony McDermott adds: The protest against anti-feminist Islamic legislation has gathered strength and broadened into wider political opposition to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and the Government led by Mr. Mehdi Bazargan. Yesterday Western-dressed women demonstrated in Tehran for the third time in four days. Several marchers were injured in clashes with pro-Islamic bystanders, and militiamen fired

over the heads of demonstrators.

Originally the demonstrations reflected fears that strict Islamic legislation would reduce women to second-class citizens, but a broader, secular and nationalist opposition in support of a simple Iranian republic has now emerged, mainly among the middle classes.

The women's demands are that the chador, the full-length veil, should not be compulsory; that they should have equal rights and pay with men; and that the Family Protection Law, which gives rights over the custody of children and divorce to women, should not be changed.

In a move to lend support to the provisional Government of Mr. Bazargan, Dr. Ibrahim Yazdi, the assistant to the Prime Minister for revolutionary affairs, has announced that all revolutionary committees would be gradually dissolved, and their duties transferred to the Government.

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IDA Ireland also has offices in Dublin, Amsterdam, Paris, Cologne, Stuttgart, Milan, Copenhagen, Madrid, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Houston, Toronto, Sydney and Tokyo.

Japan to drop emergency aircraft leasing scheme

BY YOKO SHIBATA IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S MINISTRY of Finance has decided to drop the leasing of aircraft to foreign airlines from its new \$2bn worth emergency import package scheduled to operate from April 1 to the end of September this year, due to criticism of the programme. This means that the government is again unlikely to meet its emergency imports target—there will be a shortfall of around \$1.2bn in the current financial year's target of \$4bn.

The wide margin between interest rates on the government's foreign currency loans from the Export-Import Bank of Japan to leasing companies and the companies' charge to airlines has been criticised in the current diet (parliament) session. According to the opposition parties, interest rates on foreign currency loans from the Ex-Im Bank is fixed as low as 6 per cent per annum, while leasing companies charge interest rates of 8.25 per cent to the foreign airlines. This 2.25 per cent interest spread has resulted in windfall profits of as much as ¥3.87m for leasing companies which have leased 25 aircraft since the scheme was first implemented on April 1, 1978. Minister of Finance, Mr. Ippai Kaneko, had

pledged to review the current aircraft leasing system and to revise its interest rates to a reasonable level.

The Ministry of Finance says the interest rate on the Ex-Im Bank loans was fixed as low as 6 per cent so as to finance the purchase of commodities such as iron pellet and precious metals for stockpiling, not for profiteering by leasing companies.

The Ministry has simultaneously turned down the U.S. demand that its airlines should be able to take equal advantage of the aircraft leasing scheme as do other countries. The Ministry says that extending the scheme to American air-

lines would simply be providing a subsidy to the airlines. So in order to avert both this U.S. pressure and public criticism on the wide interest margins, the ministry has decided to drop the programme.

Japan's emergency import programme aimed at trimming the trade surplus, will only reach \$2.5bn in the fiscal year ending this month, well short of its original target of \$4bn. The shortfall is largely attributed to failure to carry out imports of uranium and prepayment for enrichment (targeted at \$1.6bn) and imports of crude oil for stockpiling (at \$645m) due to political difficulties in Iran and the rise in oil prices.

China steel project delayed 'indefinitely'

TOKYO—China has notified Nippon Steel of its decision to postpone indefinitely the expansion of the Wuhan steel works, the company told the Kyodo News Service.

It said the project called for the expansion of the plant's current capacity of 2.5m tonnes to 6m tonnes a year under China's plan to double its steelmaking

capacity to 60m tonnes by 1985 as the nucleus of its industrial modernisation programme.

NSC was making preparations to send a team of experts to the Wuhan steel works soon to make feasibility studies on the expansion project at the request of the China National Technical Import Corporation. AP-DJ

U.S. may lower TV import duty

BY RICHARD C. HANSON IN TOKYO

JAPANESE TELEVISION manufacturers expect the U.S. Treasury today to agree to substantially reduce its anti-dumping duty assessment on shipments of TV sets in the early 1970s, but appear ready to go to court if it does not.

In either case, the decade-old anti-dumping dispute is far from being resolved to the satisfaction of the U.S. Congress and TV industry of the Japanese, who have argued vigorously that they are not being treated fairly.

The Japanese industry, however, is confident that it will win a considerable concession from the Treasury's Customs Service which on March 31 last year said the Japanese would have to pay \$46m in penalties on sets exported from September, 1970, to June, 1973. A favourable ruling based on new data provided by the Japanese in January

would also defuse the threat of an estimated \$400m anti-dumping duties on TV exports from 1977.

The Treasury is expected to notify early this week each maker (excluding Sony Corporation which was dropped from the proceedings some time earlier) of the amount it must pay for the earlier period. The Treasury has told the Japanese that there will not be a further postponement on that decision, the last 45-day delay having been put into effect on January 26.

The dilemma at the Treasury comes down to how it will placate Congress (which has been clamouring for action against the Japanese makers) and at the same time, discard a simplistic formula for taking such action which the Japanese contend is unfair and arbitrary.

When the Treasury made its March 31, 1978 announcement of the penalties which Japanese makers would be made to pay, it used a controversial "commodity tax formula" (based on a Japanese Government model) under which it calculates the free on board price of a TV set exported to the United States is 20 per cent below the retail price in Japan.

Since the total import of Japanese TV sets comes to around \$2bn, the Treasury estimated the margin of dumping based on the 20 per cent formula would be \$400m.

The U.S. Customs Service resorted to this measure because the time consuming process of assessing the true value of sets sold in Japan through detailed examination of records had put them years behind in making actual dumping assessments.

Joint UK E. German venture

By Guy Hawtin in Frankfurt

THE FIRST joint venture in three countries between a British company and an East German enterprise has been concluded. Many such schemes have been mooted since Britain recognised the GDR six years ago, but up until now none have got off the ground.

Under the terms of the deal Beck and Politzer Engineering of the UK, will handle the installation of Planeta printing machines in a number of countries in the Middle East, Central and South America, Scandinavia and the EEC.

An interesting feature of the joint venture is that it is a direct one between the British company and VEB Polygraph Leipzig which produces the Planeta presses. Unitechna, the GDR foreign trade enterprise specialising in technical products, acted as the middle man in the deal rather than direct partner. Advisors to Beck and Politzer were Metzler Handels-gesellschaft, an associate of E. Metzler Seel, Sohn, the Frankfurt merchant bankers.

The agreement is open-ended but if things work out satisfactorily there will be a broadening of both the markets and the type of machinery that Beck and Politzer will be installing. At the start of the three-year "build-up" period British engineers will be trained at Planeta's Dresden works and initially, British and GDR engineers will work side by side.

Beck and Politzer has the sole rights to install, repair and transfer Planeta sheet-fed offset presses in the markets covered by the agreement. But the British concern, which has wide experience in the installation of printing machinery, remains free to contract for similar work from other manufacturers.

Talks that led to the deal first started at last year's Leipzig Fair in March. They were completed particularly quickly for deals of this type and work started in October, 1978, with Beck and Politzer installing Planeta machinery in Libya.

It is hard to put a price on a deal of this type—an open-ended agreement implies a long term relationship, the value of which, in times of high inflation, is hard to quantify. However, the equipment involved should amount to several millions of pounds over the period.

Congress urged to back GATT

BY DAVID BUCHAN IN WASHINGTON

THE IMPORTANCE of a new world trade pact may not lie in the cuts it would make in tariff and non-tariff barriers but in its ability to stop individual countries from slapping more restrictions on each others' exports, according to the U.S. Congressional Budget Office.

This warning of the need to head off the "new protectionism" comes in a study of the GATT trade negotiations, the first such report by an arm of the U.S. Congress, which later this year will have to vote on the agreement being negotiated in Geneva.

Under the 1974 Trade Act, Congress cannot amend—only approve or reject—any accord negotiated by the Administration, a restriction introduced because Congress maulled parts of the previous trade agreement in the "Kennedy round." But the fate of the Geneva agreement will nonetheless hang on the decision of Congress, which is now often independent-minded.

The CBO report points out that the agreement's effect on jobs, inflation and the U.S. trade deficit will be relatively small. Employment changes will affect only one-tenth of 1 per cent of

the workforce, but unevenly. Higher technology sectors, concentrated in the south, west or midwest areas should gain, while labour-intensive industries in the north and east using technology which can easily be copied by international competitors, may suffer. This will inevitably colour attitudes of congressmen and senators from those areas.

While the report says that tariff cuts should recoup the cost of re-allocating labour and capital from one sector to another in one or two years, it comments that the trade pact stands little chance in Congress unless accompanied by more generous aid to workers and industries hit by competition from abroad.

Imports will not be much cheaper after a Geneva agreement, which, the report says, looks like cutting tariffs by 30 to 40 per cent over eight to ten years. The average tariff rate is 6 per cent of all imports, so a GATT accord will shave only 2 to 3 per cent off import prices over several years. The reduction in U.S. inflation would be only 0.5 per cent over the same long period.

Price changes in world trade will be "minuscule," the Congressional study says, compared with those caused by exchange-rate fluctuations.

The CBO favours a Geneva accord on the strong political grounds that it cements co-operation between the U.S. and its European and Japanese trading partners and also the developing world. But it warns that a GATT agreement would not eliminate any of the three main causes of the large U.S. trade deficit: slow economic growth abroad with sluggish demand for U.S. goods, oil imports, and persistent American inflation making exports less competitive.

The Carter Administration, and particularly Mr. Robert Strauss, its senior trade negotiator, has said that the subsidies code being negotiated in Geneva is a prime reason why Congress should back the agreement. The CBO report discusses the evils of trade subsidies, citing the British Government's bankrolling of its ailing steel company as one example.

But it claims that what comes out of Geneva "is not likely to be clear agreement on which kinds of Government practices are acceptable and which are not,

but rather on a mechanism for resolving subsidy disputes."

Two important gaps in the Geneva negotiations, the CBO says, concern practices of State-trading countries (which for the most part are not GATT members), and the increasing number of bilateral trade deals struck between two countries or one country and a company in another country. Such deals are discriminatory against third countries, it says.

Argentina sells wheat to China

By Robert Lindley in Buenos Aires

CHINA HAS agreed to purchase 890,000 tons of this year's Argentine wheat crop, according to sources close to the Economy Ministry.

A four-man Chinese mission has just returned to Peking after spending five days in Argentina.

The purchase fits into the terms of an agreement signed in Peking last year by Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz, Economy Minister, and Chinese officials during the Minister's visit to China.

SHIPPING REPORT

Tanker rates rise on Iran news

BY LYNTON McLAIN

THERE WAS a further improvement in oil tanker charter rates last week in response to the resumption of crude oil deliveries from Iran.

Rates for a very large crude carrier, on a slow steaming charter, rose 10 points to 28 on the Worldscale of freight rates. For an ultra large crude carrier, the rates rose from Worldscale 21 to Worldscale 29 over the week.

The improvement was also reflected in charter rates for smaller vessels.

But in all cases, owners reported difficulties in getting supplies of bunker fuel oil for tankers. Prices of fuel rose again last week and owners insisted on higher charter rates to compensate for these higher charges as well as in response to greater demand for vessels.

The resumption of oil deliveries from Iran came after production was increased to 3m barrels a day in the week. This

compared with the level of 5.7m barrels a day before the revolution in Iran closed all production wells.

London shipbrokers estimated that production would level off at approximately 3m barrels a day.

Trading activity in the tanker markets in the Mediterranean and in West African loading

areas was maintained and there was considerable demand for tankers carrying between 30,000 tons and 60,000 tons of oil.

The demand for refined petroleum products, however, fell away towards the end of the week in the Mediterranean markets, but demand was stable in the Caribbean and in the Gulf.

World Economic Indicators

	RETAIL PRICES				% change over previous year	Index base year
	Feb. 79	Jan. 79	Dec. 78	Feb. 78		
W. Germany	148.2	147.1	146.1	144.2	2.8	1970=100
U.K.	207.2	204.2	202.5	189.5	9.3	1974=100
Japan	123.4	123.3	123.5	119.6	3.1	1975=100
U.S.	204.7	202.9	202.0	187.2	9.3	1967=100
Italy	142.2	139.5	138.5	125.9	12.6	1976=100
Holland	122.2	122.5	122.6	117.4	-4.1	1975=100
Belgium	130.9	130.1	129.5	125.8	4.0	1975=100
France	209.7	207.8	206.8	190.3	10.2	1970=100

Soviet-Indian rice-oil deal

By K. K. Sharma in New Delhi

THE SOVIET UNION has agreed to step up its supplies of crude oil to India by 600,000 tonnes in exchange for an equivalent amount of rice. This was one of the principal conclusions of talks here during the past two days between Mr. Alexei Kosygin and Mr. Morarji Desai, the Soviet and Indian Prime Ministers.

The barter deal helps India, whose grain storage facilities are severely strained as a result of four consecutive good harvests. Grain stocks are now over 17m tonnes. Mr. Kosygin initially wanted wheat but readily agreed to Mr. Desai's proposal that the Russians accept rice since India is already committed to supply wheat to Vietnam and wants to build up a buffer stock.

Details of a long-term economic cooperation agreement will be announced on Wednesday, a day before Mr. Kosygin leaves for Moscow.

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UK NEWS

Imports aid Ford to recoup losses after hard struggle

By KENNETH GOODING, MOTOR INDUSTRY CORRESPONDENT

FORD struggled hard to regain lost ground in the UK new car market last month. Figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders today show that it captured a 27.78 per cent share.

It succeeded, however, only by drawing substantially on imported vehicles. Of the 37,062 new Fords registered last month, 14,812, nearly two-fifths, were imported.

For the first two months of this year, as Ford built up production in the UK, still suffering the after-effects of last autumn's nine-week strike, more than 43 per cent of the 74,037 new Fords registered were assembled outside the UK.

According to the trade, Ford increased its marketing pressure last month with attractive deals for volume fleet buyers.

That effort helped to buoy up new car sales that otherwise were suffering from the bad weather: private buyers do not like to take delivery when there is ice about.

New car sales last month, at 133,397, were 4,000 lower than in February, 1978, while the total for the first two months of the year, 288,618, was almost identical to that for the same period last year.

Imported cars continued with a very high market share, 52.3 per cent in February against 47.6 per cent 12 months before. Ford was not the only "domestic" manufacturer with many imports among its sales. Chrysler imported about one-third of the 3,380 cars it registered last month, with the "Car of the Year", the French-made Horizon, continuing to do well. Only 14 per cent of Vauxhall's sales were of imports.

BL had a quiet month, possibly reflecting Ford's determination to pick up all the feet sales it could and the absence of many private buyers.

Its market share last month, 20.57 per cent, was well below that for February last year, 24.9 per cent, and for last year as a whole, when it topped 23 per cent.

The Japanese have started this year with much less stock and therefore fewer marketing opportunities. The Japanese share of last month's market was down from 12.81 per cent to 9.33 per cent and for the two-month period from nearly 13 per cent to just over 9 per cent.

Renault of France actually overtook Datsun of Japan as the top importer (excluding Ford's "captive" imports), taking 5.57 per cent of sales last month.

That reflects the group's new success with the R18 mid-range saloon, just launched in the UK. However, the list of best-selling individual models in February has a familiar look.

Top was the Ford Cortina, with sales of 15,513, followed by the Ford Escort, 11,490; Austin Morris Mini, 6,352; Morris Marina, 5,409; Austin Allegro, 4,530; Vauxhall Cavalier, 3,882; Ford Granada, 3,780; Ford Fiesta, 3,313; Austin Morris Maxi, 3,070 and Ford Capri, 2,974.

Industry seeks UK voice in Brussels

By Hazel Duffy, Industrial Correspondent

THE DIVERSE interests of the mechanical engineering industry are in process of forming a single representative council to strengthen their representation in Brussels. The council, to be called the Council of Mechanical and Metal Trades, is expected to be launched in about two months.

The Engineering Employers' Federation, in a co-ordinating role, has sent invitations to 13 trade associations, of which there are 250 in the industry.

So far only the Process Plant Association, which has played a leading part in trying to form the council, has agreed to join. The others are expected to follow shortly. Other associations will be asked later to join.

It is the industry's second attempt to form a single body. The first, the British Mechanical Engineering Confederation, was wound up about three years ago after a short existence during which it tried more than the industry was willing to see it do.

The proposed new body will be more modest, having probably a two-tier structure with a working board of trade association representatives chaired by the Employers' Federation, which will provide the secretariat.

In Brussels it will become a member of ORGALIME, the organisation representing the engineering industry in 15 countries of Western Europe. The electrical engineering industry's trade body is a member of this.

Areas where the British industry wants to put a united view include product liability; membership of the EEC by Spain, a growing competitor; technical barriers to trade; contract conditions and conditions of sale; and re-organisation of European steel, which will affect pricing.

The move to organise the industry on these lines, Sir Peter Carey, Permanent Secretary to the Department of Industry, has been invited to attend the first meeting of the new body.

Guardian Royal Exchange to raise Motor premiums

By ERIC SHORT

ABOUT 1m motorists insured with Guardian Royal Exchange, the second largest motor insurer in the UK, face a rise in their premiums from the beginning of next month.

The company is, lifting premiums by an average of 12 per cent and is also introducing two major changes in its rating structure.

Premiums for business cars are to be rated on a geographical basis, the same as ordinary cars, instead of on a flat rate. This reflects the growing use of business cars in the overall remuneration package of employees. The company has also

changed the rating for Coventry and Edinburgh and increases in these two cities will be lower than average.

Guardian Royal Exchange last increased its rates on April 1, 1978 by 14 per cent. Growing pressures on motor accounts from the increasing numbers of claims and rising claim costs have forced several other insurance companies, including Eagle Star and Royal, to revise premiums more than once a year.

The company hopes to be able to hold the new rates steady over the next 12 months, in spite of the adverse experience

of this winter. The increase was based on claims earlier in the year. The company will not be able to count the cost of motor accidents arising from icy roads until garages have been able to deal with the excessive number of repairs.

As an example of the effect of this latest increase, a mature driver owning a Ford Escort, living in a provincial town, and who is eligible for full no claims discount (Guardian pays a maximum of 65 per cent) will now find his annual premium rising to £56 from £50.40—an increase of 11.1 per cent.

Architects plead for warehouse but demolition threat is denied

By RHYS DAVID, NORTHERN CORRESPONDENT

A GROUP OF 11 leading architects and designers, headed by Professor Sir Colin Buchanan, Sir Hugh Casson, Lord Reilly and Mr. Marcus Binney are appealing to Mr. Peter Shore, Environment Secretary to make the 30-year-old Great Northern Warehouse in Manchester a listed building to save it from demolition.

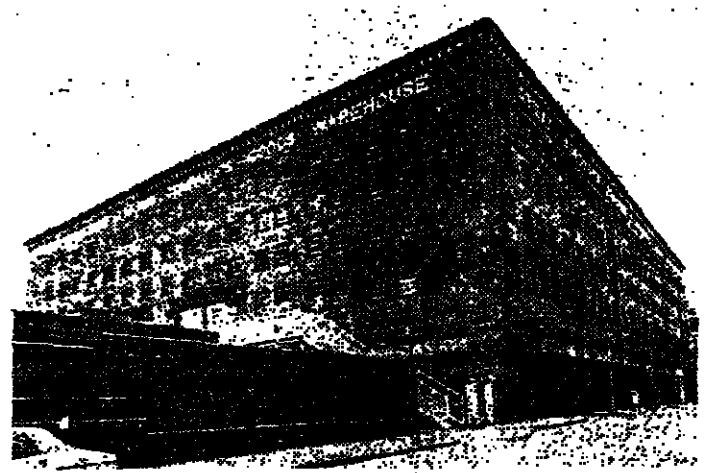
The group says that the building, 270 ft long, 220 ft wide and 75 ft high, is most interesting in the history of 19th-century railway development and is an outstanding engineering achievement. It could be turned into a multi-storey car park.

The appeal seems to have surprised the two main parties involved with the building: the Greater Manchester Council, and George Robinson Demolition. Confusion remains over whether the warehouse is under threat of demolition.

The building consumed 25m bricks, 1.5m granite sets and hardwood flooring blocks, 50,000 tons of concrete and 12,000 tons of mild steel when built in the 1890s, and stands on a 29-acre site.

The site also includes the central station and its architecturally important train shed.

After the demolition of some other buildings on the site, Greater Manchester Council last year took a lease of 124 years from the owners, George Robinson, to control development of the site. Since then, Greater Manchester Transport, is also understood to have taken a majority shareholding in the



The 19th-century warehouse in Manchester, described as of great architectural importance.

Robinson company, which owns the site.

Central Station and the Great Northern Warehouse are on short leases to National Car Parks.

The council said yesterday that it had no plans to demolish the warehouse and Mr. George Robinson said that his new arrangements with the council meant that he was not in a position, as the architects had stated, to plan demolition of the building.

The council hoped to be consulted before any decision was taken to list the building. It said that talks were being held with Manchester City Council, another interested party, on a planning brief

covering the whole area. The architects, in their letter, say that the outstanding feature of the warehouse design was its two separate but connected goods stations, one above the other, each with marshalling yards, and connected to roads and the canal system.

The letter declares that a ready use exists for the building as a multi-storey car park. "National Car Parks are ready and anxious to use the building in its entirety for car parking by inserting internal ramps which will leave the external appearance of the building unchanged," Mr. Gordon Michell, one of the signatories of the letter, said yesterday. The work would cost about £500,000.

Overseas exhibitors dominate food show

By CHRISTOPHER PARKES

BRITISH COMPANIES at the International Food Exhibition, which opens in the Grand Hall, Olympia this morning, will be heavily outnumbered by the 480 overseas exhibitors from 33 countries.

None of the leading British food manufacturers will be there in force, but Common Market competitors have spent heavily on displays and sales teams to tempt buyers representing retail, wholesale and catering interests for the UK and abroad.

The Irish Export Board has spent about £100,000 on helping build up a national section in which 23 Irish food and drink companies and four food marketing boards will exhibit.

Range

Products range from "fast-foods"—a hamburger which cooks in 35 seconds—to Irish spaghetti and whiskey-flavoured salami from Co. Carlow.

It was suggested the lack of enthusiasm among UK manufacturers stemmed from the depression in the industry. The food market has been virtually static or falling since 1974 and margins have shrunk alarmingly.

However, consumer spending on food in the UK reached almost £17bn last year. It accounted for some 19 per cent of all household outgoings and now overseas suppliers aim to increase their market share.

Denmark, notably its dairy trade, hopes to increase food sales in the UK by 10 per cent this year.

Discussions

At a conference run in parallel with the show there will be papers and discussions on the fast-food companies' challenge to supermarkets, ways for small independent shops to compete with the big ones, and opening up of the British food export market.

The trade-only show opens at noon and will open for the rest of the week at 9.30 am, closing on Friday at 4 pm.

The future is certain for La Défense.

Le Figaro - December 12, 1978

"La revanche de La Défense" (La Défense takes its revenge)

Le Monde - October 18, 1978

"La relance de l'opération de La Défense" (The boost in operation at La Défense)

Les Echos - October 17, 1978

"Le quartier de La Défense sera poursuivi et terminé, décide le Gouvernement" (The Government decides to carry out development at La Défense until completion)

Today, one thing is certain: La Défense shall be carried out completely, and the headlines above bear witness to this fact.

Time to resolve the problems facing the EPAD (Etablissement Public pour l'Aménagement de La Défense) and the Centre de Commerces et de Loisirs des "Quatre Temps" shall not have been spent in vain. Public authorities and opinion have come to realise the importance, the weight, and the irreversible character of this daring operation in urbanism.

The program of La Défense/

decreed by public authorities, as presented by Mr. d'Ornano, Minister of the Environment and Living Standards (October 16, 1978).

"Development of the La Défense area will continue at as rapid a pace as possible, in view of the priorities given to new towns, with an effort to negotiate contracts for at least 1,200,000 m² of office space in the next 5 years". To bring this about involves:

- Improvement of mass transit service and lines extending from the Pont de Neuilly to La Défense.
- Improvement of roadways and highways serving the area:
 - 1980: side lanes for the A86 between Pont de Chatou and Pont de Rouen.
 - 1982: the A14 under La Défense.
 - 1982: left bank expressway along the Seine between the Pont de Puteaux and Pont de Neuilly.
- General environmental improvements.

The decisions taken concerning its achievement are due to one obvious fact: La Défense is very much a living reality. With 15,000 residents and 40,000 employed, it's already a small city.

La Défense is part of the organized growth of the City of Paris and was created as a commercial pole for an urban zone containing 1,100,000 inhabitants. The need for such a pole can no longer be denied.

It is now the responsibility of those involved to give the operation warmth and character, to make sure that it shall not only live but that it shall also be a nice place to live in.

Yet, signs already point to success. Let us review some of the recent highlights.

The Interministerial Committee which met on October 16, 1978 came to definite decisions concerning a boost in the office building program, the improvement of access, the environment as a whole, and the completion of the shopping center.

Some of these decisions have already been put into effect. In December 1978, the S.E.E.R.I. began construction of an office building of 12,000 m² which should be finished by mid 1980. Negotiations are now well in progress concerning 200,000 m² of office space: City bank, moving from the Champs-Élysées, shall set up offices on 21,000 m² of this space in a building located on the terrace of the shopping center.

The construction program undertaken by Epad as of 1979 particularly involves the completion of the Esplanade, the construction of the Paris-Provence Tunnel of highway A14, the construction of an expressway from Courbevoie to Puteaux, the extension of highway A86 in the direction of Chatou, the completion of the La Défense bus station, the improvement of road signs.

The project has truly been given a "boost": the 1979 budget that Epad has committed to this construction is twice that of 1978.

The Center of Commerce and Leisure called "Les Quatre Temps" that the Serete Aménagement Company is charge of commercializing, will open its doors in March 1981.

The Samaritaine has confirmed its decision to set up a 22,000 m² department store; Auchan will set up a 20,000 m² "hypermarket" on the premises left by le Printemps who withdrew from the operation. Other well known names in retail are following thus providing that this new dynamic program does indeed correspond to a need.

The center of commerce and leisure:

Surface area: 105,000 m²
La Samaritaine: 22,000 m² - department store
Auchan: 20,000 m² - hypermarket
Large Retail Merchandisers: 63,000 m²
Boutiques - Restaurants: spread out
Cinemas - Skating rink: in 160 stores
6,300 parking spaces
15 bus lines
RER - SNCF lines

Architect ATEA
Interior Decoration: ATEA, LENCLOS, CONRAN
Associés.
Opening date set for: March 1981.

Les Quatre Temps

The vocation of the center remains the same: it corresponds to the real needs of an extremely dense population who have been waiting for years for the creation of a pole of attraction, a center of all types of activity to make day to day living easier and more enjoyable. The "Quatre Temps" will offer them a department store, a hypermarket, the big competitive names in retail merchandising, specialty shops, fashion boutiques, restaurants, cafés, and leisure activities. As can be seen along the Esplanade opposite the CNT the main structures and walls of the "Quatre Temps" are in completion, and commercialization is again under way.



SERETE AMENAGEMENT

63, rue La Boétie
75008 Paris
Tél.: 255.34.60
et 359.86.38

UK NEWS

Inland Revenue
aces all-party
investigation

ELINOR GOODMAN, LOBBY STAFF

Inland Revenue is to be investigated by an all-party committee of MPs as the latest series of inquiries by the sub-committee of the House of Commons Expenditure Committee into areas of Government spending not covered by committees. Sir William Hare, chairman of the Inland Revenue, and a number of other civil servants, will give evidence to the committee, chaired by Michael English, Labour MP for Nottingham West, which took evidence from Mr. Joel H. Chief Secretary to the Treasury, for his contribution to the Government's annual public expenditure. White Paper, has already touched on the workings of the Inland Revenue as part of its wider inquiry into the Civil Service. It now feels the time is right for a more specific investigation into the workings of the Inland Revenue.

The MPs may well look at the whole of the Revenue, and the way the Revenue uses its powers to obtain information about tax dodging. Given the committee's brief to examine the economic implications of Government spending, it also seems bound to study the progress being made to computerise the collection of PAYE.

Raise smoke, drink duty

OUR CONSUMER AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE DUTIES on tobacco and alcohol should be increased to pay for higher personal allowances, the National Consumer Council said yesterday in its submission to the Chancellor of the Exchequer next month's Budget. The council says that the subcommittee on cigarettes and alcohol is "relatively cheap" with a few years ago, the excise duties on them historically low levels in terms.

It believes that increasing on consumption "in a selective way" help meet the cost of tax thresholds for the low-paid. The council says that to take it of distortions caused by

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Barnesley Works, The Yorkshire Yarn Mill, 99, The Dale, Barnsley, S70 2JH
Tel. 01223 501 501
Telex: 52343 Dale G.

Davison-Kaith Limited,
Dealey House, North Street, Havant, Hants.
PO9 1CA. Tel. HAVANT (01329) 474122
Telex: 66491 Davkey G.

Elequip Limited,
Gloucester Crescent, Wigston, Leicester
LE18 2PA. Tel. LEICESTER (0533) 772711
Telex: 511025 Elequip G.

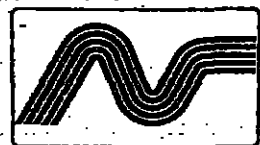
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Telex: 435591 Lister G.

Petrow Limited,
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Tel. SANDWICH (03046) 3311
Telex: 96329 Petrow G.

Petrow Power Generation Ltd.
Humble, Southampton, Hampshire SO3 5JH
Tel. HUMBLE (0703-122) 2041
Telex: 47626 Petrow G.

G&M Power Plant Co. Ltd.
Plymouth Works, Whitehouse Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 5LX
Tel. IPSWICH (0473) 41795
Telex: 96216 GMPF G.

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Umas, Shell Mex House,
P.O. Box 148,
London WC2R 0DX.



Sea gas link agreed

BY SUE CAMERON

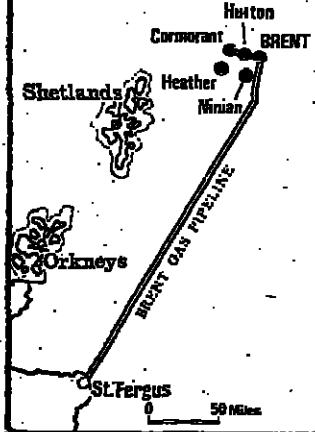
THE DEPARTMENT OF Energy has persuaded the U.S.-based Union Oil to agree to take the first steps towards linking the North Sea Heather field with the FLAGS gas-gathering system.

Union, which operates the Heather field, is understood to have agreed in principle to T-junction in the western leg of the FLAGS (Far North Liquids and Associated Gas System).

That will enable the company to build a gas pipeline from Heather to FLAGS later if it decides to do so.

Heather has only a little gas and Union is believed to oppose linking the field to FLAGS for economic reasons. However, the Government, determined to make fullest use of all North Sea resources, has been putting strong pressure on the company to join Heather to the system.

The department has been permitting the company to flare Heather gas monthly instead of

Gas Gathering System
(FLAG System)

quarterly, as usual. It is understood to have threatened to withhold flaring permits to withhold flaring permits altogether unless Union agrees to gather Heather gas.

The long-standing row has

come to a head because work on the western leg of the FLAGS line is to start today, weather permitting.

The £30m western leg will go from the Brent A platform to the Cormorant A platform. It will be connected to the existing Brent pipeline to the St. Fergus terminal, Scotland.

Proposals also exist to link the Hutton and Ninian fields to the western leg of the FLAGS line for an estimated further £30m.

The only one of the five fields rich in gas is Brent. The others are likely to start running out of gas altogether towards the mid-1980s.

The advantage of the gas-gathering system is that fields linked to it will be able to use Brent gas to power their rigs once their own gas runs out. But Shell/Easo, the Brent operators, say that the western leg of the FLAGS line will not make money.

Nuclear plant risk to Guernsey 'small'

THE GUERNSEY authorities have consulted the UK National Radiological Board about likely health risks to islanders from discharge of the radioactive gas krypton-85 from the nuclear reprocessing plant at Cap de La Hague. The move reflects Channel Islands anxiety about

activity on the nearby Cotentin Peninsula.

In an advisory note to Guernsey Civil Defence Committee, published today, the National Radiological Board concludes that health risks from this source are "extremely small".

Based on a projected annual

discharge of nine megacuries of krypton-85 from the La Hague plant it is estimated that chances of harmful effects in Alderney, 11 miles away, would be at least 1,000 times less than "other risks regularly accepted in everyday life," and to Guernsey or Jersey, 35 miles away, five times less again.

Subsidies
'will not
regenerate
industry'By Peter Riddell,
Economics Correspondent

THE CONTINUATION of extensive and growing subsidies to industry is likely to bring about "highly counter-productive" changes in the working of the economic system, according to a study published this morning by Sir Keith Joseph's Centre for Policy Studies.

The author, Mr. John Burton, a lecturer at Kingston Polytechnic, argues that the results of Government subsidies are "far from offering the prospect of industrial regeneration."

Mr. Burton's study examines the supposed rationale for government subsidisation of industry and analyses its consequences.

He says that the "subsidy morass" has advanced with such speed that its true nature is not fully realised either by the general public or by the economic profession.

Mr. Burton says that far from solving the problems of employment, efficiency and growth the results of Government subsidies are self-defeating.

For the Job Support Machine: A Critique of the Subsidy Morass, by John Burton, Centre for Policy Studies, 8 Wilfred Street, London SW1E 6PL. £3.75 (hardback) and £2.55 (softback).

British Aerospace
may soon receive
feeder-liner orders

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AEROSPACE hopes soon to be able to secure its first orders for the new Type 146 four-engined feeder-liner—the £250m programme given the go-ahead by the Government last year.

The nationalised aircraft group says that it has visited more than 50 airlines looking for orders, and has found at least five potential customers with an ultimate fleet requirement of 40 aircraft. They will need early delivery dates, beginning in 1982. Their names are not disclosed.

But Mr. Cyril Bethwaite, project director for the Type 146, says in the group's staff newspaper that "the overall picture is encouraging, and we can see a definite acceptance in the market of our specification."

Work-sharing is the hallmark of this new civil aircraft programme. Risk-sharing partnerships have been agreed between British Aerospace and Avco Aerostructures of the U.S., which will build the wings, while Saab in Sweden will make some of the moving parts on the wings and tail-plane. Avco Lycoming of the U.S. is providing the jet engines.

The main construction work will be done in the group's own factories. Hatfield is building

the front nose assembly and cabin doors, Bristol, the fuselage centre-section, Manchester the aft-fuselage, Brough the wing-flaps, controls and tail-fin sections, and Scottish Aviation the engine pylons.

In addition to the other outside suppliers, Short Brothers and Harland of Belfast will make the engine pods for the Avco Lycoming engines. Final assembly will be at the Hatfield factory, with first flight expected in 1981.

Planning call for
medicines centre

THE STERLING WINTHROP Group has applied for planning permission to build a pharmaceutical research and development centre in Northumberland employing 200 people. It would be part of research to discover prescription medicines for many human disorders.

The group is seeking permission to build on two sites, at Alnwick and Cramlington, and will choose one if the county council gives its approval. The proposal has led to protests from residents on environmental grounds and the RSPCA objecting to use of live animals.

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CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO

PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW MASERU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Government of Lesotho proposes to invite tenders in mid 1979 for the construction of new Maseru International Airport at Thota ea Moli near Maseru. The project will be financed by EDF, BADEA, Kuwait Fund and other agencies. The work will be divided into the following contracts:

1. Civil Works
2. Buildings
3. Airfield Lighting
4. Communications and Navigational Aids
5. Firefighting vehicles and equipment

Contractors wishing to be considered for inclusion in the short-list of tenderers for anyone or more of the above contracts should submit their applications to:

NACO
P.O. Box 1698,
Maseru 100, Lesotho

not later than 12 April 1979.

Applications should include the following information:

1. List of similar works carried out during the past five years in Africa and outside, giving the contract scope, value of work and agency for whom the work was carried out, and a list of works in hand at present.
2. Copy of last three annual balance sheets on audited statement giving sufficient details to assess their financial standing.
3. C.V. of senior staff proposed to be employed on the work.
4. Details of plant and equipment possessed by them.
5. How they intend to do the work in case restrictions are imposed by lending agencies.

No understanding is given that all or any of the applicants will be included in the short-list of tenderers.

VICTORIA DAM AND TUNNEL

The Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka invites submission of prequalification information from experienced British contractors who can qualify through experience with projects of similar nature and type for the construction of either or both of the following works:

- (a) 110 m high double curvature arch mass concrete dam;
- (b) 6 km of tunnels, shafts and surge chamber, near the Victoria Falls on the Mahaweli Ganga, about 16 km east of Kandy in Sri Lanka.

Preliminary information on the project and instructions for firms wishing to apply for prequalification to tender are available on application from:

Sir Alexander Gibb & Partners
427 London Road
Earley
Reading RG6 1BL
quoting reference 94/78035.
Such applications should be made immediately since prequalification information received after 12th April 1979 may not be considered.

UK NEWS—LABOUR

Vauxhall workers meet today

By Philip Bassett and Arthur Smith

WORKERS AT Vauxhall's Luton plant meet today to decide whether to continue their six-day-long unofficial strike. In Birmingham, shop stewards at BL Cars decided at the weekend not to call a strike from next Friday over a demand for £90 a week for craft workers.

Vauxhall estimates that its strike has cost £3.3m at showroom value in lost production. Some 2,700 workers have been laid off by the dispute, over the dismissal of a worker alleged to have assaulted a foreman.

It involves 15 workers in the underbody section and 150 body shop workers, mainly members of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

The BL decision is seen as another setback for the unofficial toolmakers' organisation, after and BL craftsmen's decision, whose strike two years ago took the company to the brink of financial collapse.

Leaders of the toolmakers and craftsmen, who claim to represent 10,000 workers, had recommended a total strike. The apparent lack of support must cast serious doubt on the credibility of the unofficial toolmakers' organisation.

Senior shop stewards through-out BL Cars, meeting in Birmingham on Friday, are expected to recommend scrapping the company's experiment in worker participation.

Unrest about the participation machinery has been increasing over the past 12 months.

AUEW Left in battle to restore influence

By Alan Pike, Labour Correspondent

LEFT-WINGERS in the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers are fighting to restore their influence in a series of elections this week.

Four of the seven seats on the engineering section executive are up for ballot and the Left wing gains at least one if it is to retain any direct influence in the union leadership.

The AUEW Left has suffered some severe election losses recently, culminating in the victory of Right-winger Mr. Terry Duffy in last year's presidential election.

Mr. Duffy's former post, as executive member for the Midlands and Manchester, is being contested for the Left by Mr. John Tocher, a full-time Manchester official, and for the Right by Mr. Ken Case, East Birmingham district secretary.

The Left will concentrate most of its hopes, however, on the London and South East seat, where Mr. Reg Birch, a Maoist, is retiring. Two full-time officials, Mr. Jack Whyman for the Right, and Mr. Len Choulterton for the Left, are contesting the seat.

In the North West, the sitting executive member, Mr. Gerry Russell, is up for re-election. There is a vacancy in Wales and the West, following the death of Mr. Bill John.

In addition to the executive contests, another ballot involves Mr. Bob Wright, the union's best-known Left-wing official who is fighting to retain his post of assistant general-secretary. Mr. Wright has in recent years been defeated by Mr. Duffy for both the Midlands executive seat and the presidency.

Goodyear chief to meet unions over plant closure

By Ray Perman, Scottish Correspondent

MR. WESTI HANSEN, chairman of Goodyear UK, has agreed to meet union officials to discuss the closure of the company's Glasgow tyre factory.

The Transport and General Workers' Union threatened industrial action at Goodyear's plants at Wolverhampton and Craigavon, Northern Ireland, unless the talks took place.

The meeting will be in London, probably on Thursday. It will be attended by Glasgow Labour MPs.

Mr. Hansen announced the closure of the factory last month, with the loss of nearly 700 jobs, after the workforce rejected a productivity plan.

The company has told the union and the Government that its decision is final.

Mr. Alex Kitson, executive officer of the union, said yesterday that he thought Government intervention would be needed to save the plant.

Local MPs would be lobbying Ministers and the union would ask its sponsor MPs to apply pressure.

The union would probably also call a conference of shop stewards from all British tyre plants to discuss the industry, particularly the closure of the Goodyear factory and of Dunlop's factory at Speke, Merseyside.

Sea catering wages fight is launched

UNIONS representing catering workers in the North Sea open their campaign tomorrow to bring between 800 to 1,000 catering employees on to a standard set of minimum rates and conditions, as well as looking for a substantial increase in rates and allowances.

Negotiations will start between the two unions who have recruited catering employees under a joint umbrella—the Transport and General Workers' Union and the National Union of Seamen and a major North Sea catering, Offshore Catering Services of Aberdeen and Great Yarmouth.

LEMBAGA LEMRIK NEGARA TANAH MELAYU NATIONAL ELECTRICITY BOARD OF THE STATES OF MALAYA TRENGGANU HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

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This contract comprises design, supply, delivery and erection etc. of the following packages:

PACKAGE A:
Four (4) vertical shaft, Francis reaction water turbines, 102 MW output, 250 r/min, 118 metres net head, complete with electro-hydraulic governors, turbine and pipeline drain systems, cooling water systems for turbines and generators and ancillary equipment.

PACKAGE B:
1. Four (4) synchronous generators, 112 MVA, 13.8 kV, 50 Hz, 260 r/min complete with static excitation systems and ancillary equipment.

2. Four (4) sets of unit control, protection and auxiliary systems for the turbines and generators including control room cubicles, control desk, electrical protection relay cubicles, auxiliary transformers, motor starter cubicles, and sequence control systems.

3. Four (4) sets of main power connections, 13.8 kV, 5,000 A, isolated phase busbar complete with switchgear, voltage transformers, current transformers, surge diverters etc.

4. Two (2) overhead travelling cranes, 12 metres span, with combined capacity to lift the generator rotor, with 20 tonne auxiliary hoists.

Tenders will be accepted for each contract package separately or for both packages as one contract.
Tenderers shall be manufacturers or consortia of manufacturers of the items described and must have had approved previous experience in the design and manufacture of similar equipment.

Tenderers will be invited to submit an offer to finance all or part of the contract.
Full details of manufacturers' experience and their technical and financial competence, must be forwarded with their application not later than 1 May 1979 to:

Project Manager,
Trengganu Hydroelectric Project,
Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation,
Box 356, Cooma North, NSW 2630, Australia

with copy to
Project Engineer,
Trengganu Hydroelectric Project,
National Electricity Board,
PO Box 1003, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

accompanied by a documentary fee of \$4000 (Five hundred Australian Dollars) international bank draft or money order payable to SNOWY MOUNTAINS ENGINEERING CORPORATION.

It is expected that tender documents will be issued to registered tenderers about June 1979 and that tenders will be required to be submitted about four months thereafter.

Tender documents will be issued by Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation. The document fee will be refunded only to applicants not issued with tender documents.

Tenders shall be delivered at the head office of LEMBAGA LEMRIK NEGARA TANAH MELAYU, 129 Jalan Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The exact date and place for submission of tenders will be specified in the tender documents.

LEMBAGA LEMRIK NEGARA is not bound to accept any application or to accept the lowest or any tender.

LEMBAGA LEMRIK NEGARA is not liable for cost incurred by tenderers in preparing tenders.

SUDAN RAILWAYS STORES DEPARTMENT

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"NOTICE"

1. Controller of Stores, Sudan Railways, Atbara invites tenders for supply of 1,000 Bearing Housings.
2. Details, specification and drawing can be obtained from the Office of Controller of Stores, P.O. Box 65, Atbara, Sudan, or from the Office of Stores Representative at Khartoum, Tel. 74793, on submitting a written application bearing 50 mms. Stamp duty and payment of Ls 3,000 mms. for one copy of details, specification and drawing.
3. The closing date fixed for acceptance of tenders in office Controller of Stores, Sudan Railways, Atbara, Sudan is Saturday, 21st April, 1979 at 12.00 hours noon.
4. Details, specification and drawing can also be obtained from Sudan Government, Purchasing Agent, 35 Cleveland Row, St. James's, SW1A 1DD on payment of \$4.50 (sterling) by Cheque or Postal Order in favour of "The Sudan Government, Purchasing Agent."

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The Arab Monetary Fund intends to start the construction of its new office building on the Corniche Road, Abu Dhabi, in the near future. The building is a 15-floor tower of prestigious office space with its own underground car park and utilising the most modern techniques for electromechanical, security and safety services. The total built area is 15,000 sq.m. and 4,000 sq.m. of landscaping.

Building contractors with previous experience in the construction of similar projects in the Gulf and who can prove their technical and financial soundness are invited to contact the AMF to obtain the prequalification forms which should be completed and sent to the AMF on or before 15th April, 1979.

Please contact:

THE PROJECT MANAGER
ARAB MONETARY FUND
P.O. BOX 2813
ABU DHABI — U.A.E.
Telephone 28500
Telex 2989 AMF AH

EGYPT

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18 Amad el Din Street, Cairo

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to the Registered Trading Agents

from public and special sector in favour of

National Metal Industries—

Delta Steel Copper Works

The Committee issues an international tender for the supply of 21,000 (twenty-one thousand) metric tons loose heavy melting steel scrap number one according to ISIS Specification 1975 with free foreign currency on the loan power of the World Bank.

Specifications and general conditions are available at National Metal Industries, 18 Amad el Din Street, Cairo, and can be obtained by a written application against payment of twenty Egyptian pounds for each copy.

The offers should be submitted through one of the registered trading agents from public or private sector. Opening date shall be at eleven o'clock morning of Saturday, April 7th, 1979, at the above address.

Tootal plans to invest £1.5m at African printworks

By Rhys David, Textiles Correspondent

CONTINUING STRONG demand from West Africa for traditional wax-printed fabrics has persuaded Tootal to sanction a £1.5m modernisation programme at its Newton Bank African printworks at Hyde, Greater Manchester.

Further spending on building and new equipment will take investment over the next four years up to £6m. Industry Department grants will meet part of the cost.

African prints have been one of the mainstays of the Tootal business for many years but had been expected to decline with the growth of Western forms of dress and the development of the textile industry in Africa.

Instead, there has been a swing back to traditional forms of dress as a result of efforts in some African countries to stimulate national pride. That has meant a demand for Tootal's fabric, sold throughout

English and French-speaking West Africa, has continued to expand.

The fabrics produced at Hyde compete mainly at the top end of the market, above locally produced cloth, and incorporate African designs and motifs.

They are printed on the fabric by a complex process that involves coating the fabric with impermeable wax. Dye-stuffs then take only where there is no wax covering.

Apart from Tootal, other leading suppliers to West Africa of cloth printed in that way are the Dutch and Japanese.

Mr. James Harrison, a director of Tootal, said yesterday that new buildings would improve work flow and provide better working conditions. The equipment will include new mercerising, bleaching and wax printing machines.

Improvements were needed if Tootal was to continue to offer a very high standard of quality and design in African prints.

The programme of re-equipment will help the works achieve a greater share of the expanding wax print market while permitting it to cater for markets other than Africa.

Tootal has an associate company producing African prints in Zaire, but its output and profitability have been undermined by Zaire's foreign-exchange crisis. That has made it impossible to buy sufficient raw materials and the plant has been running below capacity.

Bayer, the West German fibre group, is making available its absorbent fibre Duvona in the UK in commercial quantities. The fibre, developed of which was announced in 1976, is said to combine the advantages of man-made and natural fibres.

It absorbs much moisture and dries quickly. It is also said to be light in weight and soft to handle and to incorporate the easy-care features of man-made fibre.

Crown Agents inquiry

THE investigation into what Mrs. Judith Hart, the Overseas Development Minister, describes as the Crown Agents' involvement "with the shady side of the City" resumes today after a two week break.

Set up by Parliament 15 months ago to find "to what extent there were lapses from accepted standards of commercial or professional conduct or of public administration" by the Crown Agents between 1966 and 1974, the Crown Agents Tribunal is a little over half-way through its first of six main areas of inquiry.

This section, titled "Crown Agents" will be followed by investigation of areas such as the Crown Agents' relations with the Ministry of Overseas Development, the Exchange and Audit Department, Exchange Control regulations, the Bank of England, and its former solicitors, Davies Arnold and Cooper.

Mr. David Johns, head of marketing services and Mr. Ronald Newman, managing director at Crown Agents, will be appearing before the tribunal today.

Protest planned on European MPs' salaries

By Our Lobby Staff

LABOUR anti-marketisers are likely to make a last gesture of protest against a directly elected European Parliament when the Government introduces legislation in a few weeks authorising payment of Euro-MPs. They are expected to oppose the provision allowing MPs sitting in both Westminster and Europe to draw two salaries.

Unless a last-minute change is made, no allowance is likely for travel within the vast new European constituencies.

Though the MPs to be elected on June 7 will get the generous per diem expenses, and payment for travel to and from the European Parliament, they are unlikely to be able to claim the Westminster allowance of 13p a mile for travelling to the constituency.

Regional aid policy attacked

THE GOVERNMENT'S regional development aid policy is undiscriminating, abounds with anomalies and should be greatly widened to take account of potential in areas for natural growth as well as unemployment problems, says a Leeds Chamber of Commerce and Industry report.

The Chamber suggests that the Government's criteria should cover: existing unemployment levels; projected unemployment; degree of obsolescence of plant, machinery and buildings; long-term potential for growth, even in areas where unemployment is not a major problem.

Remove funds call

THE ECONOMIC group Christian Concern for Southern Africa has called on churches and missionary organisations to withdraw their funds from banks operating in South Africa. It also wants all British banks to pull out of South African operations.

Timken to expand

BRITISH TIMKEN, the subsidiary of Timken of the U.S., plans "significant" expansion of facilities for the development of tapered roller bearings. The company employs 4,000 people at two factories in Northampton and Daventry.

Invoice warning

FRAUDULENT invoices for entries in a non-existence trade directory are circulating in the Glasgow business area. Police Fraud Squad has warned Glasgow businessmen have been paying out up to £100 on the basis of false invoices which appear to be coming from a Dublin-based firm.

Gateway talks

BRITISH Trade Department officials are to visit Madrid in a further attempt to convince the Spanish Government of the need to transfer flights to the Iberian peninsula from London's overcrowded Heathrow airport to Gatwick. The move, originally planned for next month, will now probably be postponed until the autumn.

Government urged to ban misleading bargain offers

By David Churchill, Consumer Affairs Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT has been urged to pursue proposals to ban misleading bargain offers from shops this summer.

However, opposition from retailers and manufacturers has been growing.

Mr. Jeremy Mitchell, director of the National Consumer Council, has told the Govern-

ment in a letter that the situation is getting worse, not better. "Manufacturers and retailers are either unable or unwilling to put things right by their own action."

The Government intends to prevent retailers from displaying or advertising prices so as to imply that savings are being offered when they are not.

Borrowing rise forecast

By Peter Riddell, Economics Correspondent

FURTHER SUPPORT for the view that public sector borrowing in the 1979-80 financial year is likely to rise between £9bn and £10bn without Budget policy changes comes this morning from a batch of new brokers' circulars.

Capel-Cure Meyers, however, highlight the sensitivity of these projections to the relative growth of public and private sector pay. Roughly parallel rises in both sectors, they say, would effect little change in borrowing and because of buoyant income tax revenue, borrowing could fall from £10bn to £9.5bn if both sectors earned 15 per cent, rather than 10 per cent, rises.

Capel-Cure conclude that a 1 per cent rise in the public sector would alter borrowing by £300m and a parallel private sector rise would change income tax revenue by roughly £400m.

The Week in Parliament

TODAY
COMMONS: Local Government Grants (Ethnic Groups) Bill, second reading. Local Government Finance Bill, second reading.

LORDS: British Railways (Selby) Bill, second reading. National Heritage Fund Bill, second reading. Civil Liability order. European Communities (Definition of Treaties) Order. Debate on Commonwealth Day. Short debate on referendum in Scotland.

SELECT COMMITTEES: Public Accounts. Subject: Appropriation accounts. Witnesses: Department of Transport, Room 16, 5.45 pm. Expenditure, Education, Arts and Home Office sub-committee. Subject: Women and penal system. Witnesses: Association of Chief Police Officers, Police Federation, Room 13, 4.15 pm.

TOMORROW
COMMONS: Debate on operation of courts in Scotland. Various Lords consolidation measures. At 7 pm, opposed private business.

LORDS: Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors Bill, committee. Shops (Sunday Trading) Bill, second reading. Short debate on the M25.

WEDNESDAY
COMMONS: Industry Bill, remaining stages. Motions on European Assembly Elections Regulations.

LORDS: Debate on secondary education. Licensed Premises (Exclusion of Certain Persons) Bill, second reading.

SELECT COMMITTEES: Expenditure, Trade and Industry sub-committee. Subject: UK domestic air fares. Witnesses: Joint Airports Charges Committee, British Airline Pilots Association, Room 16, 10.15 am.

Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration: Subject: Reports of the Ombudsman. Witness: Mr. C. M. Clothier QC, Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration, Room 7, 5 pm.

Public Accounts Committee: Witnesses: Scottish Home and Health Department, Department of Education and Science, Room 16, 4 pm. Expenditure, Social Services and Employment

Sub-committee: Subject: Perinatal and neonatal mortality. Witnesses: British Medical Association, Room 15, 4.30 pm. Overseas Development. Subject: UK aid to India. Witnesses: Mrs. Judith Hart, Minister for Overseas Development, Treasury, Room 6, 10.30 am.

THURSDAY
COMMONS: Consolidated Fund. Lords: House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Bill, third reading. Carriage by Air and Road Bill, third reading. Vaccine Damage Payments Bill, committee stage. Kibbutz Independence Bill, committee stage. Marriage (Enabling) Bill, committee. Short debate on compensation payable for compulsory purchase of listed buildings.

SELECT COMMITTEES: The Nationalised Industries. Sub-committee D. Subject: Consumers and nationalised industries. Witnesses: British Railways Board, National Bus Company, Room 6, 10.45 am.

FRIDAY
COMMONS: Private Members' motions.

مكتبة الأمل

[illegible]

Sunday trade law 'could lift prices'

BY OUR LABOUR STAFF

in recent years by successive Governments by statutory or voluntary efforts to control inflation.

USDAW said its 460,000 members were united in opposition to the legislation in company with a growing number of employers.

AIR ANGLIA, based at Norwich Airport, is acquiring two more Fokker Fellowship F-28s this summer to speed up flights from Scotland to the Continent. The aircraft seat 85 passengers each.

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KENNETH WOOD, Secretary.

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A high-contrast, black and white photograph. In the foreground, a hand is visible, holding a pen and positioned as if about to sign a document. The document is the central focus, featuring large, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The top line of text reads 'SITE ACQUIRED', and the bottom line, partially obscured by the hand, reads 'FOR NEW FACTORY'. The background is dark and textured, possibly a wall or a large sheet of paper. The overall image has a grainy, high-contrast quality, typical of a photocopy or a low-quality scan.

Knowing the local labour market means always keeping a couple of steps ahead of it. And that's precisely what we make it our business to do at your local Jobcentre. It can mean contacting employers to establish what their problems are and to help them with their plans for the future. It can even involve assessing how national developments could affect the local situation. All of this benefits the employer. Because the better informed we are, the better we can cope with problems as they arise.

Being well informed works both ways. If you're expanding your business, we can brief you on the local workforce and its skills. If, on the other hand, you're forced to issue redundancy notices, we can advise you of re-employment and training opportunities in the locality for those to be made redundant.

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BUSINESSMAN'S DIARY

UK TRADE FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

UK TRADE FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS		
Date	Title	Venue
Current	Chelsea Antiques Fair (56 580699) (until Mar. 17)	Chelsea Old Town Hall
Current	Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition (01-353 4000) (until Mar. 31)	Earls Court
Current	Boys and Girls Exhibition (0532 620361) (until Mar. 18)	Alexandra Palace
Current	Autopquip 79 (01-235 7000) (until Mar. 15)	Wembley Conference Centre
Current	Labex Intl. (Lab. Diagnostic and Medical Inst. Exhibition) (021-705 5707) (until Mar. 16)	Exbn. Centre, Birmingham
Current	International Food Exhibition (01-456 1951) (until Mar. 16)	Olympia
Mar. 13-15	Computermarket 78 (01-935 4998)	Albania Hotel, Glasgow
Mar. 18-20	British International Footwear Fair (01-739 3817)	Exbn. Centre, Birmingham
Mar. 18-21	Toy Fair (04252 72711)	Brighton Centre
Mar. 19-23	Scottish Sales Show (031-229 6412)	Kelvin Hall, Glasgow

Mar. 20-22	International Public Address Equipment Exhibition —Sound (75 89455)	Cunard International Hotel, Sandon Park, Essex
Mar. 21-22	EIA Engineering Exhibition (01-232 2367)	
OVERSEAS TRADE FAIRS		SANDOWN EXHIBITION
Current	Primavera 79—International Gift and Novelty Exhibition (until Mar. 18)	Genoa
Mar. 17-25	International Light Industries and Handicrafts Fair (01-486 1951)	Munich
Mar. 17-31	International Fair (01-248 5797)	Cairo
Mar. 21-26	International Bicycle and Motorcycle Exhibition	Zurich
Mar. 22-29	The Middle East Oil Show	Bahin
Apr. 1—Apr. 9	European 79 (01-439 3864)	Paris
Apr. 1-8	Toys and Games Trade Show—BELOUETS	Brussels
BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE		

Current	Mobile Training: Company Taxation for Managers (01-242 3067) (until Mar. 18)	Charing Cross Hotel, WC1
Mar. 12-14	AMR International: Management Skills for Women (01-263 2732)	Churchill Hotel, W1
Mar. 12-14	Institute of Directors: Finance for Non-Financial Executives (01-839 1233)	London, SW1
Mar. 12-15	MSS Computer and Business: Production Planning and Control (0903 34755)	Northumberland Ave., W1
Mar. 12-16	Brunel Institute: Social science inputs to organisation development (0585 6541)	UXbridge
Mar. 13	AGB: The Search for Opportunities with Dr. Edward de Bono (01-353 3851)	Café Royal, W1
Mar. 13	P-E Consulting Group: Solving Problems by Simulation (Egham 4411)	Lower Belgrave St., SW1
Mar. 13-15	GIM: Finance for the Non-Financial Manager (0788 812125)	Cawston
Mar. 14	IPS: Food and Drink (0990 23711)	Bavall Garden Hotel, W8

Mar. 14	Imperial College: Forecasting: Art or Science? (01-588 8111)	London, SW7
Mar. 14	Oyez-IBC: Practical Steps for Exporters and their Suppliers—Minimising Risks under American Strict Liability Laws (01-242 2481)	Hilton Hotel, W1
Mar. 14	CCC: Cost Effective Purchase and Operation of Car and Light Van Fleets (01-222 6362)	Europa Hotel, W1
Mar. 14	The Centre for Interfirm Comparison: Management Ratios and Interfirm Comparison (02-582 5825)	Parker Street, WC1
Mar. 14	The Henley Centre for Forecasting: Costs and Prices: Forecasts to 1954 (01-251 3941)	Carlton Tower Hotel, SW1
Mar. 14	Auto Accessory Retailer/SMMT: Automotive Parts and Accessories Aftermarket: 1979 (Beaconsfield 73248)	
Mar. 14	The British Computer Society: How to choose a computer (01-637 0471)	Wembley Conference Centre
Mar. 14	Engineering Industry Marketing: Seminar on	University of Aston

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Mar. 14	CCC: Cost Effective Purchase and Operation of Car and Light Van Fleets (01-222 6362)	Europa Hotel, W1
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Mar. 14	The British Computer Society: How to choose a computer (01-637 0471)	Wembley Conference Centre
Mar. 14	Engineering Industry Marketing: Seminar on	University of Aston

Mar. 14-16	Industrial Marketing (Bourne End 24922)	Metropole Hotel, Birmingham
Mar. 15	The Oilman/Maclean Hunter: Repair and Maintenance in the Offshore Industry (01-437 0644)	Metropole Centre, Brighton
Mar. 15-16	Institute for Public Studies: Future of Corporation Tax (01-353 2861)	Northumberland Ave., WC2
Mar. 17	BACIE: Training for Trainer Roles (01-636 5351)	London Press Centre
Mar. 17	Textile Institute: Profit? Knitwear and Hosiery (061 334 8457)	Leicester Polytechnic
Mar. 19-20	AMR International: Time Management (01-234 2020)	Churchill Hotel, W1
Mar. 19-Apr. 6	Management Centre Europe: Management Course LAMSA: The Best Use of Resources (01-828 2333)	London
Mar. 19-23	National Engineering Laboratory: Principles and Practice of Flow Measurement (East Kilbride 20522)	Royal Hotel, Scarborough
Mar. 20	Institute of Directors: Annual Convention	Glasgow
Mar. 20-22	RRG: International Captive Insurance Companies	Royal Albert Hall

Mar. 20	Conference (01-236 2175)	Bermuda
Mar. 21	CBI/IPBA: India 1979 (01-830 6711)	Tothill Street, SW1
Mar. 21-22	FT Conference: Tomorrow in World Electronics	
Mar. 21	(01-236 2175)	Grosvenor House, W1
Mar. 21	The Institute of Chartered Accountants: The Measurement and Rewarding of Productivity (01-828 7060)	
Mar. 21	ESC: The World of Microprocessors (057282 2711)	Grand Hotel, Manchester
Mar. 21-23	Brunel Institute: Management of remuneration and incentive (0885 58481)	Hyde Park Hotel, W2
Mar. 22-June 7	IPM: Industrial Relations Law: The impact of current legislation (01-387 2844)	Uxbridge
		Upper Woburn Place, WC1

year ended 27 January 1979

Sales rose by 22% to £533 million. Department store sales increased by 22% to £312 million and sales in Waitrose supermarkets by 23% to £211 million.

Profit after interest and the balance available for Partnership Bonus and retentions both rose by £11

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John Lewis Partnership 
department stores and Waitrose supermarkets

This is some indication that producer co-operatives generally need not be confined in size or inhibited

That will mean a cash distribution to Partners of £13.8 million.

John Lewis Partnership 
department stores and Waitrose supermarkets

Technical Page

EDITED BY ARTHUR BENNETT AND TED SCHOETERS

PROCESSING

Dirty linen updated

NEXT TIME your secretary thinks of drying those tannin-stained tea cups on the roller towel in the cloakroom, ask her to spare a thought for the people who work at Smarts Laundries in Balham, South London.

Although the whole ethos of this new £14m industrial laundry is not to have to touch the beastly things, some of the "girls" have worked there for over 30 years, and still haul at the result of others' labours. Bloodiest job, undoubtedly, is the sorting out of coats, overalls and aprons from the Co-op butchers, and hospital groups. From there, they are entered into a fully automated process most of which takes place by implementation of British machinery and technological investment.

Most sophisticated feature of the 19,000 square foot of production area is the Tunnel continuous washing system with automated overhead feed and storage which handles 25,000 roll-towels per week. It is said to be the only installation of its kind operating in the UK and requires virtually no manual handling from start to finish of the process.

Once towels have been flaked in preparation for washing, they are transported by conveyor to a Classomat unit which uses high pressure air to blast individual towels through a duct and into baskets suspended 9 feet above the laundry's floor. Each basket accepts ten towels before moving along the Futurail, then discharges the towels into a 2,400 lb an hour capacity Sinking tunnel washer.

The washer has 20 compartments and each batch of ten towels spends 11 minutes in each compartment before being discharged on to a conveyor prior to loading (in 40 towel batches) into one of two Broadbent auto extractors.

Extraction cycle of the Balham process, says chairman, Brian Goodlife, is believed to be the unique — using as it does two 200 pound capacity, 1000 rpm Broadbent washer/extractors specially modified solely to extract water.

Particular feature of this application is that the towels receive an additional rinse before extraction.

▲ third conveyor carries the

towels from the extractors to the final calendaring section, where manual processing resumes. Calendaring is catered for by two ten-towel capacity Manlove Tullis units, each capable of handling over 2,000 towels per day.

Additional roll-towel processing capacity is provided by a 600 lb Milnor washing/extractor, operating separately from the main automated line. This machine not only acts as a back-up unit, but can also be used for special processing when required.

A whiter shade of pale is, apparently, still tops on the towel market, although the Stock Exchange chooses them with snazzy stripes down the middle, and where towels have lost their whiter-than-white image, they are dyed to a more practical, Oxford blue. Worn, damaged, or especially stained patches, are snipped out and replaced with sections of new towelling, before laundering.

But, in addition to roll-towelling processing, the laundry offers many other services to industry and commerce, such as workwear, table and bed-linen rental.

Following sorting into Futurail baskets, items are washed in one of five washer/extractors—two 240 lb capacity units; one of 120 lb and the other of 35 lb. When necessary, garments can be processed in the 150 lb capacity Spencer Aquasolv machine, where they are simultaneously washed and dry cleaned.

In the finishing-process, all flatwork (sheets, napkins, tablecloths, etc.) are calendared, while garments go through a tunnel-dryer. Four tumble-dryers are used for items that need to be thoroughly dried.

Streamlining the company's stock control, and undertaking all automatic and manual invoicing procedures, is a £100,000 Burroughs B800 computer system which incorporates seven VDU's and can store up to 97m bytes of information on its memory disc. This supplies the laundry's 9,000 customers in the south-east with detailed print-outs, including full account information, and also covers similar operation for Smarts' branches in Hackney, Southampton and Wilmington.

More on 01-870 1444.

DEBORAH PICKERING

ENERGY

Sun power converter has indefinite life

IN THEORY, there appears to be no reason why, once a direct conversion silicon-solar cell array is up and working, it should ever stop. Ferranti staff say the life of a solar cell used in non-space applications is "indefinite."

Researchers at Battelle's Columbus Laboratories have begun improving upon a method of making silicon solar cells, which they hope could sharply bring down costs of this form of solar energy capture.

In a one-year, \$300,000 study for the U.S. Department of Energy, Battelle will further develop a method for fabricating amorphous (non-crystalline) silicon using electrodeposition

and adapt the process to solar cell fabrication.

A major problem besetting solar-cell technology has been its high costs. Current solar cell modules sell for about \$9 per peak watt of output. Typical methods for manufacturing involve growing large crystals of silicon, slicing them, then fabricating the solar cell and enclosing it in a protective capsule. As part of the current study, Battelle hopes to develop a method that could produce silicon solar cells at costs as low as 30 cents per peak watt by 1986. They also hope to attain at least a 10 per cent efficiency rate from solar cells using the electrodeposited amorphous silicon, which is comparable to current solar cell

efficiency rates ranging from 1 to 14 per cent.

This would imply that the energy section of a dwelling could be built at capital cost of, say, \$8,000 and go on for the life of the home, which explains all the interest.

To produce the silicon, researchers will use electrodeposition—a technique traditionally used for plating one metal over another to produce coatings. During the past three years, Battelle in co-operation with The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, has developed a process for electrodepositing silicon. Holding the patent on the technique is The Solar Company, a Battelle-Northwestern Mutual venture established for the purpose of

demonstrating and commercialising promising solar technology.

Silicon will be produced on a low-cost metal substrate in one continuous step by passing electric currents through solutions in organic solvents. The resulting silicon will be thin and noncrystalline. Molecules will be arranged in no apparent order, enabling the solar cells to absorb the maximum amount of sunlight.

This process of making silicon could be scaled up for large production runs and operated continuously, and because the process can be operated at room temperature, little energy will be required for production.

Battelle Columbus Laboratories, 505 King Avenue, Columbus, Ohio, 43201, U.S.

COMPONENTS

New ideas in exhaust production

OXFORD Exhaust Systems, a company within BL components, is going ahead with a £5m investment to establish the most up-to-date motor vehicle exhaust system manufacturing plant.

This programme, which includes a product engineering centre, automatic tube manipulation and silencer assembly equipment, and improved exhaust system assembly facilities, will also have design, manufacturing and testing facilities to provide a speedy prototype service for existing and potential customers.

Research will be carried out into new developments in acoustic technology, but the emphasis will be on improvements in quality and performance, retaining the cost advantages which can be gained by automatic production methods.

Silencer manufacturing facilities are being introduced in three phases with the first nearing full production during the next few weeks. Each phase consists of high speed progression presswork equipment for component production, automatic CO2 welding and mechanical clenching equipment for sub-assembly work and an integrated silencer assembly module.

Silencers can be produced in any length from 9 to 36 inches and in a range of body sections between 3 and 104-inch diameter. The silencer internals can comprise up to four baffles and can be wrapped in mild steel, aluminised steel or stainless steel bodies with the option of a non-metallic interleaf if required.

The automatic glass fibre packing unit is unique and is a joint development between Su-butec, the equipment sup-

pliers, and glass fibre producers. Consistently high product quality is attractive for customers, and the removal of the unpleasant task of handling loose glass fibres has provided better working conditions.

The company is well pleased with the results obtained and a further module of similar specification has just been

Resin boosts car part

DUPONT reports that an improved distributor, electronically assisted, made by Duccellier in France is making beneficial use of its SP-21 polyimide resin in two key guidance bushes.

The two 3.5mm diameter bushes are in the flyweight operated advance-retard mechanism where such components can experience fretting corrosion, vibration, pressure and rolling friction, the temperature sometimes approaching 130 deg C.

Metal-to-metal contact is considered undesirable by Duccellier, the necessary lubri-

cated for installation at the end of 1979.

Tube manipulation facilities installed at Oxford Exhaust Systems are also unique and are a result of another joint development with a machine manufacturer.

BL Components, Unipart House, Cowley, Oxford OX4 2PG. 0865 775841.

Digits show in sunlight

MAKING USE of one of the earliest principles of display—the impacting electron—Itron's FG410E four digit fluorescent display tube gives exceptionally bright characters that can be seen clearly on instrument panels in bright sunlight.

Available from Norbain, Arkwright Road, Reading, Berkshire RG2 0LT (0734 864411), the device has an anode with independent segments, mesh grid and directly heated

cathode; the phosphorus coated anode elements emit a rich blue-green light when activated.

Available in both multiplexed and direct drive forms (suffix one and two respectively), the device has anode and grid currents in the 1.5 to 2.5 milliamps per character region while the filament consumes up to 55 mA at a drive voltage of two volts (ac).

Overall measurements of the four digit unit do not exceed 60 x 30 x 8.5 mm.

CONSTRUCTION

Counter to vibration

HEAVY DUTY resin anchors from Hilti (Great Britain) have helped solve a problem in one of Courtauld's weaving mills. Courtauld's recently installed a number of looms in this north of England plant. It was found that expansion bolts used to fasten the looms to the floor were rapidly working loose due to vibration.

After consultations with Hilti contractors Bryan Engineering of Keshley decided to tackle the problem with the new Hilti resin anchor system which was used on a batch of 90 Ruti looms at Stargrove Mill, Colne. Each loom was secured at four points with resin anchors set in holes.

Now, six months after installation, the company is confident that the problem has been overcome and that the anchorages are permanent.

Once set, the resin anchors give a secure bond—the 16 mm size used at Colne has a pull out value of 84.8kN in 40N/mm² square millimetre concrete.

The Hilti resin anchor system comprises a zinc electroplated steel rod with a cold rolled metric thread, a nut and washer, and a sealed capsule containing resin, hardener and filler.

The capsule breaks as the anchor is set in the hole and the resin is then mixed thoroughly and distributed evenly. The setting time for the resin is much less than for cast-in fixings and can be as short as 10 minutes depending on the ambient temperature.

The system is simple and clean to use. Each rod has a depth mark to indicate the correct embedment depth. The anchors are available in six diameters from 8 mm to 24 mm in overall lengths from 110 to 290 mm.

Hilti, Chester Road, Manchester M16 0GW (061-572 5010).

Lays floors very fast

TABLEFORM from GKN Mills Building Services is being used to construct the floors of a \$30m hotel in the OAU (Organisation for African Unity) Conference Centre and tourist village in Monrovia, Liberia.

The hotel, being constructed for the Republic of Liberia's Ministry of Public Works by Cubitts Liberia Inc. (a member of the Tarmac Group) is on six floors with a total floor area of nearly 37,000 square metres. GKN Mills Tableform will be used on all floors except the first, which is unsuitable for tableforming because of height

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restrictions. Construction work on the hotel commenced in January 1978 and is scheduled for completion in July 1979.

GKN Mills Tableform is versatile and its telescopic leg arrangement allows a complete unit to be withdrawn through an opening as small as 760 mm (2 ft 6 in) deep without complete dismantling. In contrast to other systems it can be used to construct excessive upstands/downstands or balconies cast with the floor slab, straight and spiral ramps, sloping soffits and hyperbolic paraboloid roofs.

The method, which is basically the construction of the floor slab on a supporting movable plane, is very good on productivity but places some constraint on design. Something like seven repeat uses are required to make the method worth while.

Concrete to spray

DEVELOPED BY Pozament Cement in association with Fairclough Tunneling, is a factory-blended concrete for the mining and civil engineering industries, BucShot.

Precise production control has enabled a variety of BucShot mixtures to be produced for varying requirements, using the basic ingredients of Portland cements, graded sand bases, and approved admixtures for high early strength, rapid set, improved adhesion and bond, and reduced dust emission.

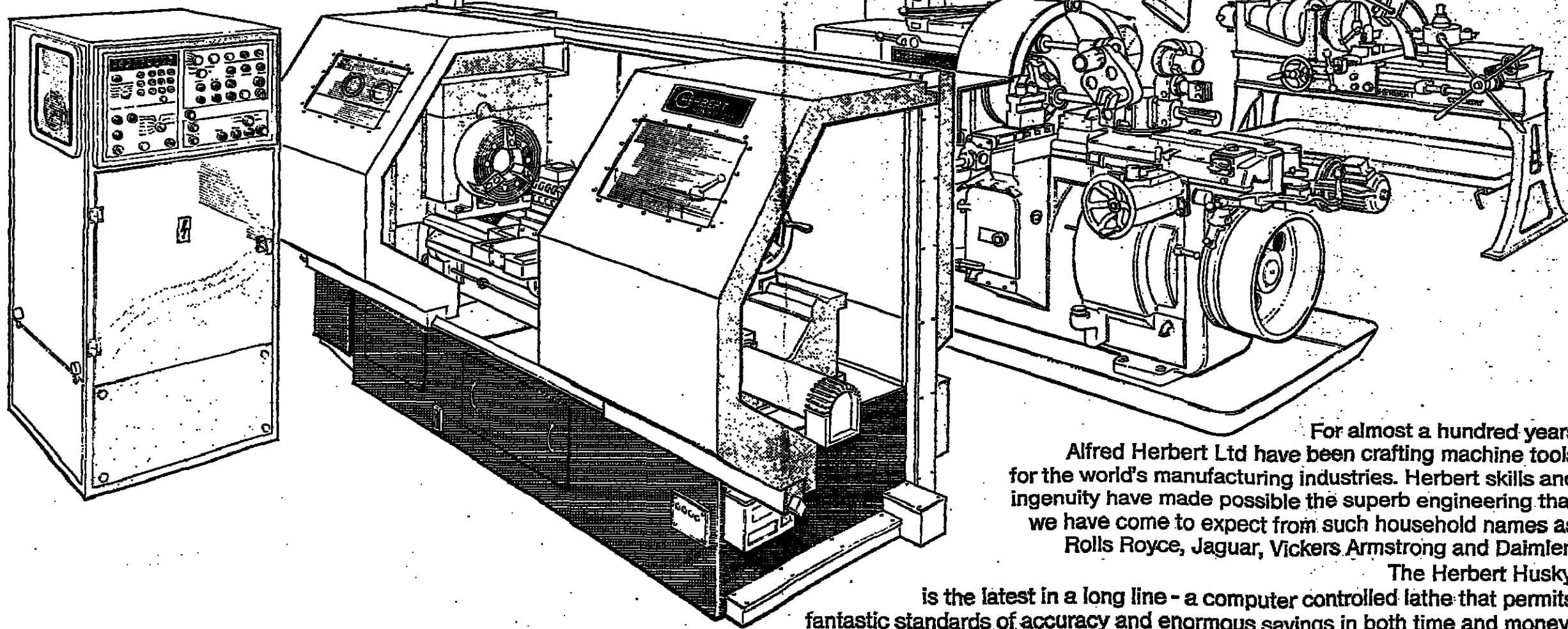
Because of its built-in humectant reaction, the spray concrete is said to be safe for use in confined spaces. It is suggested for tunnel support systems, repairs and relinings, rock sealing and support, long wall packs and strata control in mining, air and fire control in mines, facing to diaphragm walls and contiguous piles, and roof construction (dome, shell and barrel vaults).

Oven-dried to give consistent water/cement ratios, the material is bagged in 25 kilo. weatherproof, sealed paper sacks.

It can be obtained from Pozament in Leeds (Leeds 827121) and Overseas, Staffordshire (Burton-on-Trent 213636).

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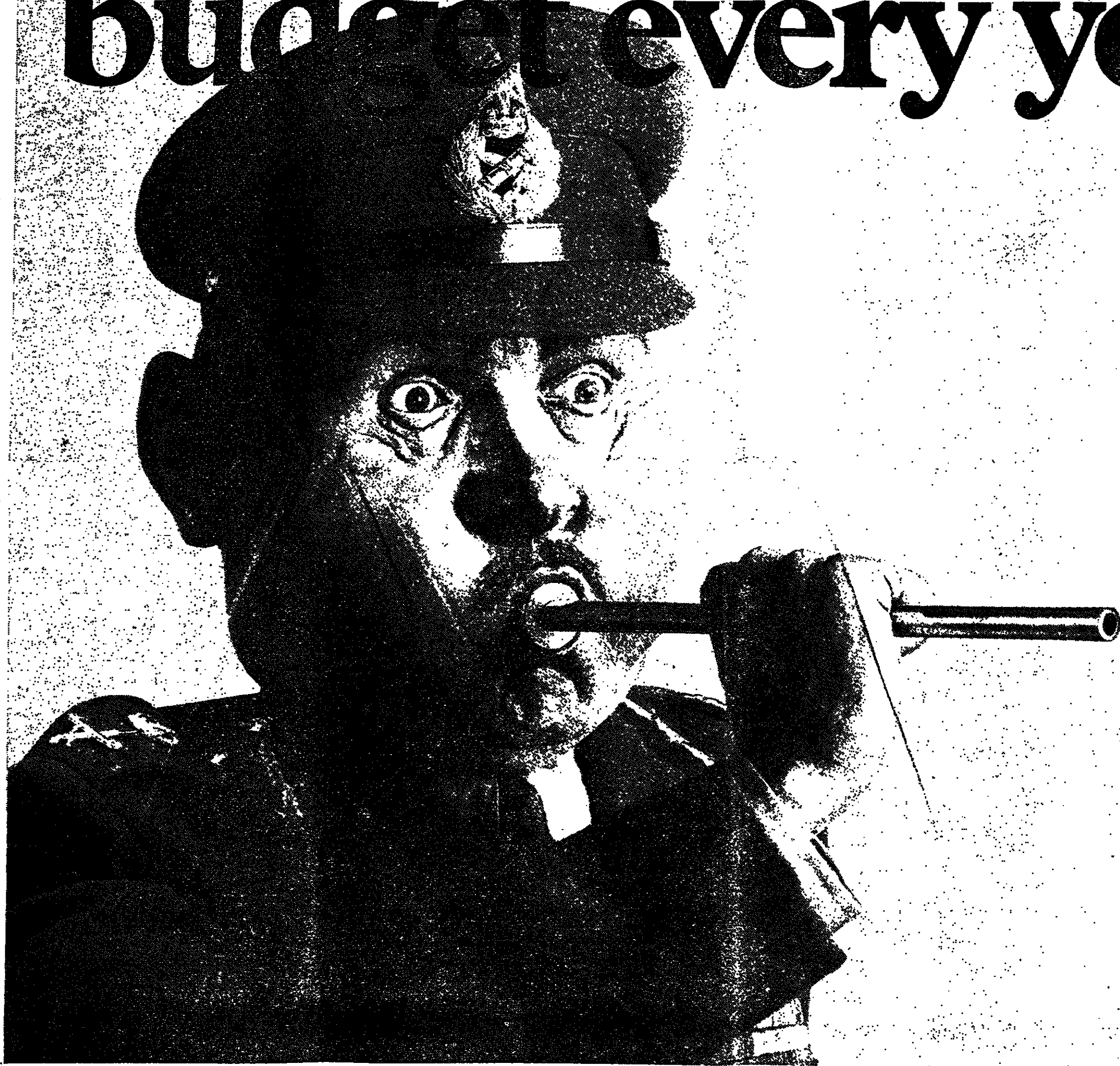
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Building and Civil Engineering

£100m. hydro scheme for Sri Lanka

UNDER A contract signed in Colombo between the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Sir William Halcrow and Partners, the latter is to provide full consultancy services for detailed design and supervision of construction of a 200MW hydro-electric project, part of the Mahaweli Development Scheme, at Kotmale, some 35km from Sri Lanka's hill capital of Kandy.

Halcrow will be working in collaboration with CECB (Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau), the Sri Lanka state consultants; Kennedy and Donchin will be the sub-consultants for the electrical and mechanical aspects of the scheme.

The project is being funded by the Swedish Government, and the Swedish contractor SKANSKA has been nominated for the civil engineering works. The overall cost of the project is expected to be about £100m, construction of the main works is due to commence this year, and to be completed in 1984.

The water supply for the Kotmale project will be provided by a reservoir to be created by construction of a rockfill dam 107m high, with a crest length of some 590m. The reservoir will have a gross storage capacity of 410m cubic metres, and a surface area of 956 hectares. The power house, which will accommodate four Francis turbines

of 50MW each, will be located underground and served by a 6.6km long headrace tunnel. Spent water will be discharged through an 850m long tailrace tunnel into the Mahaweli Ganga at its confluence with the Attabage Oya.

The reservoir is located in an area of great scenic beauty, so far largely given over to the cultivation of tea and upland rice; the creation of so large an artificial lake is likely to prove a substantial tourist attraction, and for this reason, and also for obvious functional purposes, a number of roads will have to be rerouted above reservoir top water level.

In order to house the engineers and construction workers likely to be engaged on this project, the total workforce at its peak being expected to exceed 1,000 men, a large camp is being built near the site; the camp is to be provided with all modern services, including electricity to be generated by a small power station, swimming pools and so forth.

While many of the houses will be temporary buildings, a number of permanent bungalows will be provided which, following completion of the project, are to be allocated to technical and maintenance staff required for the operation of the scheme.

Work rolls in at Reed and Mallik

REED AND MALLIK, the civil engineering division of Rush and Tompkins group, has won contracts worth over £4m, at sites stretching from the London area to Aberdeen.

The largest project, valued at £1.5m, is for Westford Borough Council, and is for the construction of 1 km of three-lane, 11-metre wide, ring road together with 150 metres of dual carriageway. Multiple phasing of the works will be necessary, as the existing railway bridge is to be demolished and rebuilt, two new subways constructed and an existing subway extended.

Also in the south-east roadwork valued at £550,000 is to be undertaken for Kent County Council at the Walderslade Estate.

Following the award in April 1978 for the construction of the new jetty and associated structures at Stranraer for the two dock roll-on roll-off ferries, British Rail, Scottish Region, has placed further orders valued at £375,000 with Reed and Mallik for heavy duty lorry parking. The work is to be completed in 26 weeks. Also for the Scottish Region of British Rail, five small over-bridges are being reconstructed to give additional headroom. The work is valued at £280,000 and is also to be completed within 26 weeks.

Thames Water, Metropolitan Division has placed an order valued at £400,000 for the construction of the Earl pumping station in South London. Other sewage works include three jobs in Scotland: 1,260 metres of 300 mm ductile iron pipeline for the Strathclyde Regional Council, 674 metres of storm water relief sewer for Grampian

Regional Council at Peterhead and a further 600 metres storm water sewer for the same authority at Aberdeen. Total value of these three jobs is £230,000.

At Scunthorpe, for the borough council roads and sewer work valued at £500,000 is about to be started as are preliminary works and ground stabilisation for a new bus depot at Rotherham. This work, for the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive is valued at £422,000.

Lightweight chimney

SAVINGS IN labour and mortar and high insulation are among the advantages listed of a house chimney construction system which is being promoted by Taylor and Portway of Halstead, Essex CO9 1HR (078 74 2551).

Lightweight, thermal concrete blocks are used and designed to key into 75 mm and 100 mm walls, although they may be free-standing if desired. Each block is equal to three courses of brick. Clay liners are of a slightly different length to the blocks and thus the joints do not coincide with the mortar between the blocks. There is, therefore, a high degree of insulation.

Due to its light weight, says the company, and the fact that it can be keyed in later to party walls, the whole chimney can be constructed without waiting for the normal house brick work, which is done in stages.

There is a choice of five openings for closed room heaters or open fires.

Wiltshier's inside job

CONTRACTS WORTH over £310,000 have been added to the order book of Wiltshier International Interior Contractors. At the Hilton Hotel in Park Lane, London, it is refurbishing the St. George's Bar area and carrying out decorations and electrical works to 20 suites in the tower block, while at Wilkins and Grims department store in High Street, Colchester, Essex, it is carrying out £100,000 worth of refurbishing of the menswear, perfume and fashion accessories departments.

At Milton Keynes, work starts this month on the shop front and complete interior fit-out for a new W. H. Smith unit. This £130,000 contract is due for completion in July.

Another job, for which Moxley Jenner and Partners are the architects, is for the enlargement and modernisation of the reception area of Babcock and Wilcox's offices in Great Dover Street, London, W1. Work starts in May.

New homes in Chorley

A SCHEME to provide 80 flats and 12 houses at Cowling Brow, Chorley, Lancashire, will cost Central Lancashire Development Corporation about £950,000.

Developed in conjunction with Chorley Borough Council, the project is for one and two storey homes for single people and families and is due for completion in the summer of next year.

Located behind existing housing at Limbrick and Yarrow Road, the development will also give the neighbourhood badly-needed children's play areas and open space.

Opera house restored

RESTORATION OF the opera house in Buxton, Derbyshire is to be undertaken by Bovis Construction.

The work is to be carried out under two contracts—one for renovating and carrying out repairs to the exterior of the building; the second for a complete restoration and upgrading of the interior. Total value is about £314,000.

An orchestra pit to take 60 players is to be provided and general improvements will include installation of a new heating system, the complete rewiring of the house and emergency lighting and renewal of the seat covers.

Facilities to support telephones

WORTH SEVERAL times the performance guarantee of Saudi Ryals 137m (£21m), a contract has been awarded to Midmac Saudi Arabia, a subsidiary of Midmac Holding Corporation, SA by M and M Construction for the construction of building and support facilities relating to Phase III of the automatic telecommunication project being currently undertaken by Bell Canada in Saudi Arabia.

Guarantee facilities required for the project have been provided for Midmac by a group of bankers headed by the Bank of America, who also act as Agents, and BAI (Middle East).

Flats by John Laing

UNDER A £727,000 contract from the Cheviot Housing Association, John Laing Construction is to build a block of flats in Cowgate about two miles from Newcastle upon Tyne city centre. The part 12 and part 14-storey block will be on piled foundations with in situ reinforced concrete floors and service core.

Private housing

SAID TO be one of Nottingham's most attractive locations, less than two miles from the city centre, is a 13-acre site overlooking Melbourne Park on which construction work has started for a £2.5m private residential development.

There will be about 120 detached houses, of several different sizes and designs at prices ranging from about £16,000 to around £30,000-plus. Properties are being built by Leech Homes (Midlands) of Bulwell, Nottingham.

£12m. awards to French Kier

THREE CONTRACTS totalling over £12m have just been won by French Kier Construction. The largest, worth £8.3m is from the Thames Water Authority and is for River Thames tidal defences. The work, which is now getting under way, is to be done in the London boroughs of Barking and Newham on the tidal reach of the River Roding—known as Barking Creek—immediately upstream of its confluence with the River Thames.

A gated barrier is to be built

across the creek with a navigation opening 38.6 metres wide flanked by two reinforced concrete towers and three reinforced concrete framed tidal openings, each 12 metres wide. This contract also calls for a generator house on the west abutment and a transformer house on the east abutment, flood defence work on both banks including a gate structure across the existing sewage works outfall channel on the west bank, an access road, security fencing and lighting.

The company's second contract is in Northern Ireland and

is for the construction of 2 km of two-lane dual carriageway which will be the first section of the west link between M1 and M2 which runs from Donegall Road to Grosvenor Road in Belfast.

Costing over £2.5m, this work will include drainage, 700 metres of reinforced concrete culvert, a 17 metres span low bridge on bored piles and a steel footbridge.

The third award is by the South West Water Authority. Valued at £951,976, this contract is for the Lowell pumping station, Plymouth.

UK group going underground in Germany

MODERNISATION of Dusseldorf's underground railway station below Heinrich-Heine Allee—a £43.5m project—has resulted in work for a British company, Ground Engineering of Borehamwood, Herts.

The main contract is being carried out by a consortium of 12 contractors including Hochtief AG, P. H. Holzmann AG and P. H. Lehmann KG.

Ground Engineering, together with AG fur Betonbrunnentechnik of Rüsselsheim, Switzerland, and Bornträger of Haan in West Germany, have been contracted by the consortium to cut out more than 52,000 cubic yards of reinforced concrete. The shopping concourse and the street above will remain fully operational while the work is in progress.

The work is being carried out in two parts. The first task of Ground Engineering is to cut holes through both existing decks so that large diameter piles can be installed to support the new underground structures. The old structure will then be demolished and the road above it re-surfaced.

Pitlochry £7.7m. bypass plan

THE SCOTTISH Development Department has awarded a £7.7m contract to BICC company Balfour Beatty for the first stage of the Pitlochry by-pass in Scotland.

The contract is for the provision of 8 km of main road and 3 km of side and access roads. The main road involves the construction of 2 km of dual carriageway, reconstruction of 2 km of the existing A9 to dual carriageway standard and 4 km of single carriageway forming a by-pass to the existing A9 through Pitlochry.

About 250,000 cubic metres of filling materials will have to be brought in and the structures will include two structural steel river bridges, four concrete bridges, two over-bridges, a road-over-rail bridge and one minor bridge. Also included are culverts, drainage and the relocation of public utility services.

Work is about to start and is due for completion within 2½ years.

Balfour Beatty Construction (Scotland), also a member of the Balfour Beatty Group of

BICC has won a £300,000 contract for the design and construction of an epoxy coating plant at Western Harbour, Leith, for British Pipe Coaters. The contract is for the design and construction of a steel portal framed building on concrete foundations and clad with metal sheet wall lining and asbestos roof. Pipes ranging from 4 inches to 60 inches outside diameter will be treated at the plant.

Work on the contract has begun and is due for completion in April.



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And when I casually threw a few facts and figures at them, they almost fell off their chairs.

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In short, they've got system building off to a fine art. So we'll end up with a good looking, totally functional, permanent building at a down-to-earth price.

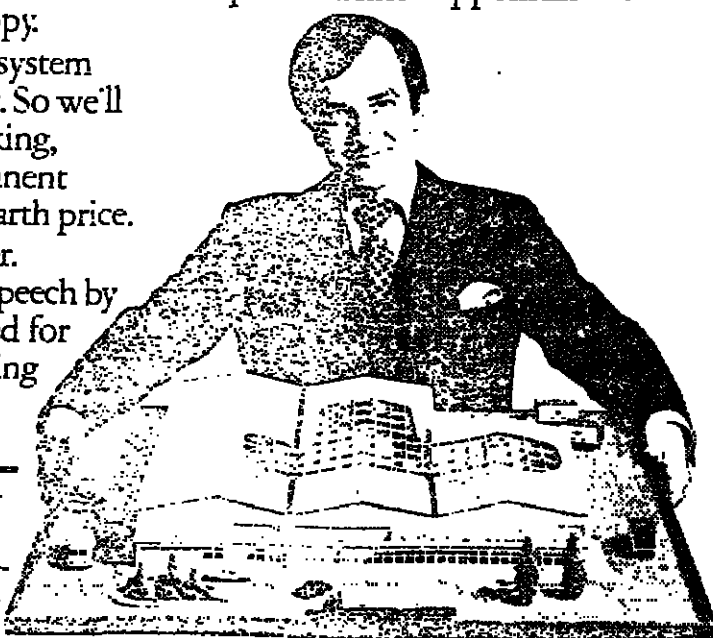
And now the clincher. I wrapped up my little speech by telling them I'd arranged for one of their chaps to bring

in a model to give us some idea of how our new building would actually work and look. It's part of their service.

I almost got a standing ovation for that one. Well, they smiled and nodded anyway.

Now I'll let you into a little secret. You don't have to stay up every night for a fortnight to do your homework. Just make one phone call. Ring Terry Chandler or Brian Thomson on 0203 301307. They'll take it from there.

Or get your secretary to send the coupon and fix an appointment."



LONDON BRICK BUILDINGS INDUSTRIAL DIVISION

To: London Brick Buildings Industrial Division, 177 Leicic Works, Ryton, Coventry CV5 8FD. I would like to talk about system building. Please telephone my secretary for an appointment.

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IN BRIEF

• Sir Frederick Snow and Partners is preparing, on behalf of the UK Atomic Energy Authority, a proposal for the abstraction of water from Wastwater in the Lake District to meet the Authority's requirements at Windscale.

• A £200,000 contract to demolish the redundant Risley effluent treatment works at Warrington, and clear the site for new housing, has been awarded to Excavation and Contracting Company, Manchester (O'Sullivan Brothers Group).

• Refurbishment contracts worth over £200,000 have been won by West Leigh and Co. They are for installation of critical windows at the Cumberland Hotel, London, and installation of a redesigned foyer frontage at the Tara Hotel, London.

• W. H. O'Gorman has been awarded a £268,000 contract to build and equip a cold store in Liberia, for the Mesurado Fishing Company of Monrovia.

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THE MANAGEMENT PAGE

EDITED BY CHRISTOPHER LORENZ

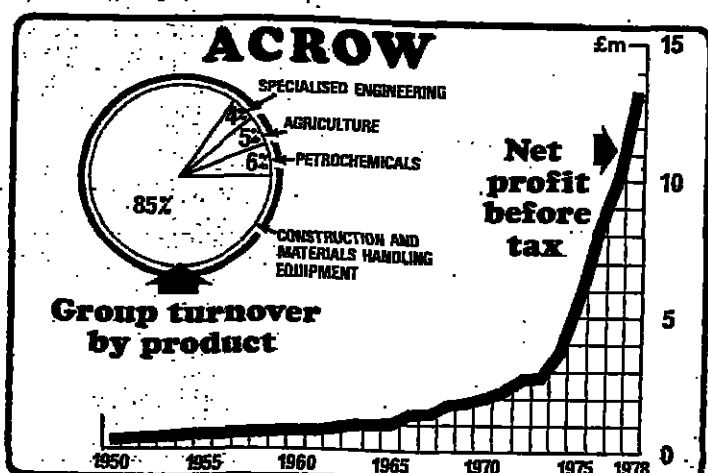
Geoffrey Owen looks at Acrow's new management structure following Bill de Vigier's recent comeback as chief executive

A thorny succession question

ONE OF the most important asks for the chairman of a company is to monitor the performance of the chief executive, to identify potential successors and to ensure that he succession takes place smoothly and at the appropriate time. When the chairman himself is the chief executive, the question of the succession can become extremely delicate. There have been some well-known cases where the founder has hung on too long, reluctant to give up power and unsure about the capacity of any of his subordinates to succeed him.

Bill de Vigier, the 67-year-old chairman of Acrow, does not intend to fall into this trap. A Swiss by birth, de Vigier founded the company in 1936 to make what became known as the acrow prop and he has run the business in a very personal style ever since. He has made number of acquisitions—the largest was the £24m takeover of the Steel Group, incorporating Coles Cranes and Priestman, in 1972—and he has been closely involved in the modernisation and re-equipment of the acquired companies, usually involving heavy capital investment. But he has never been a one-man band in the sense of trying to exert day-to-day control over the operating companies.

Like Sir Arnold Weinstock at



GEC, de Vigier has a small head office in London from which he and his finance chief Ron Gourdie (who joined Acrow as chief accountant in 1952) exert tight financial control over the subsidiaries. But unlike Sir Arnold, de Vigier is very much involved in projecting the image of the company and in selling its products. He has just been in China with Mr. Eric Varley, Secretary for Industry, and he normally spends six months of the year overseas, exports, at £77m last year, represent nearly two-thirds of the UK companies' turnover.

De Vigier's flair for publicity on behalf of his company was shown in the lavish Acrow

World Convention which he held last year at Kempton Park racecourse, bringing over 1,000 overseas visitors to a display of the company's products.

De Vigier's intention to withdraw gradually from full-time executive duties was made plain three years ago when he appointed Bill Jack, then running Coles Cranes, to be group managing director. But Jack resigned from the company last month and de Vigier has resumed, at least temporarily, the role of chief executive. The present plan, on which de Vigier has been supported by his non-executive directors, is to strengthen the head office with a team of four deputy managing directors who will in



Bill de Vigier a new managing director in due course.

effect share with de Vigier the task of supervising the operating companies.

One of these, Ian Green, is responsible for marketing. Green, formerly with Rockwell, has worked for Acrow for three years. The second, Ian Ronaldson, is responsible for Acrow's overseas companies. Ronaldson was previously in charge of the South African subsidiary. A third, Gerry Hill, is moving from Leyland Vehicles on April 1 to take charge of the technical function. While the operating companies all have their own engineering and design departments, one of Hill's tasks will be to oversee continuously their technical developments and to ensure

that their technology is kept up to date.

The fourth and perhaps most important appointment will be that of deputy managing director, finance, to take over from Ron Gourdie, who will be retiring shortly. In view of the group's present size and complexity, further acquisitions are not ruled out—there will be a need for more systematic disciplines and financial controls. This will be particularly necessary as the de Vigier Gourdie team, whose feel for all aspects of the business is based on many years of working together, begins to fade from the scene. Acrow is now advertising for a successor to Gourdie.

Although these four men are called deputy managing directors, their role is not unlike that of functional directors in a conventional staff and line organisation.

A new group managing director will be appointed in due course, but de Vigier is in no hurry to do this. He himself remains fit and energetic and the first priority is to get the head office structure in place and working smoothly. The intention is that whoever the new chief executive turns out to be—whether he comes from the head office, from the operating companies or from outside—he will fit into a logical management structure which does not depend on the talents of a single individual.

EXECUTIVE HEALTH

BY DR. DAVID CARRICK

When keeping fit can prove a man's best friend

I SPEND much of my fractional spare time as an unpaid consultant on ancient buildings, a pursuit which, although arduous, is a refreshing change from medicine. So it was that, one evening, a colleague and I called by request at a 15th century timber-framed house.

The inspection was going smoothly when we were disturbed by a strange rhythmic, rumbling noise from above. The amiable woman who was showing us round, observing our distraction, told us to take no notice. "It's only my husband rowing," she explained. "The machine was a Christmas present and we think it keeps him fit."

Although concerned by the palpable movements occurring in the walls, and worried by intermittent showers of snow-like plaster from the ceiling, we carried on, moving rapidly from the shaking room and taking great interest in a curiously dull cellar. We had not been there long when we heard an almighty crash accompanied by a bellowing howl. We rushed up and found a very fat, much startled, dust-ridden man sitting in the ruins of a contraption with oars in the middle of the floor of the room we had vacated. Above him was a huge hole, and one of the remaining ceiling joists was swinging like a slowing pendulum from its point of fracture.

Happily, only first-aid was required, but we abandoned our visit, leaving the hysterical woman and her bruised husband to count their blessings and the cost of severe damage to a floor that an ancient woodwright had not prepared for such insulting treatment.

A few days later, a reader happened to ask me whether I would write about "keep-fit" machines. Although I admit my answer was somewhat coloured by the fat man's rowing accident, I gave the matter much thought.

The request was understandable because, during the current "keep-fit" craze, many engines have been advertised as a means for rendering the flabby into perfectly-sized people.

Most of these machines are, I am certain, of great value providing that the static cyclist, or what have you, carries out his journeys to nowhere regularly. In my experience, however, a great majority of these devices lose their charm after a week or two and are then relegated to the attic.

Unless an individual is

A typical example was provided by a young and would-be executive of my acquaintance who assures me that he carries out some drill exercises daily. I believe that he actually did so for an entire week, but his wife disloyally told me that her husband now usually finds himself too tired when he gets home from the office. He still has fits of conscience and carries out parts of the gruelling programme but has to rest, betimes, and have a whisky and a cigarette. Frankly I believe that his health would benefit more if he abandoned all three pursuits.

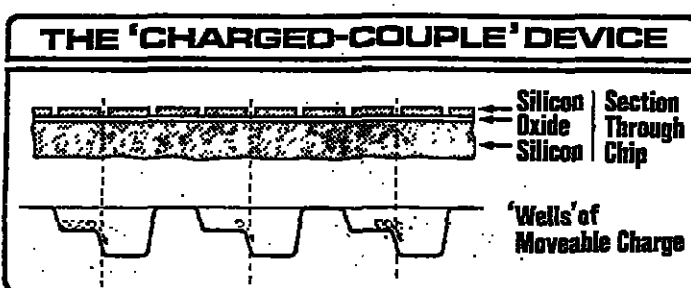
Of course I am all for regular exercise, and I would like to recommend something which may well help many. The price is variable, but frequently one of the cheaper models is better value if less attractive. No special fixtures or fittings are required, but there is a weekly fuel charge which also varies depending upon the size chosen. Regular maintenance is required to ensure a life of from six to fifteen years.

There are disadvantages, but the merits outweigh them. These include: enforced daily walks (the best of all forms of exercise); built-in personal protective device; occasional enjoyment; and the regular glow of a remarkable sense of self-righteousness and achievement.

The device is easily obtained and guaranteed to succeed. It is known as a dog.

How Marconi is playing innovator to an American invention

BY DAVID FISHLOCK



The CCD chip is prepared in the form of a matrix of photo-sensitive cells. The charge packets which accumulate beneath the matrix can be shifted from cell to cell by an electronic clock. Thus the pattern can be read out at the bottom edge of the matrix as a video signal suitable for driving a TV display.

groups of specialists who "look very keenly at what the customer wants." They don't invent in a vacuum—they seek out prospective customers and ask them what their problem is. Of a total workforce of 600 in his electro-optics division, about 350 are professional engineers.

Fairchild has developed two CCD cameras which are of keen interest to Davies. One, the general-purpose model, is about the size and shape of a packet of tea, and weighs less than 1 lb. It costs around £3,500—up to ten times the price of a conventional television camera. Half the cost rests in the chip, an array of over 46,000 photo-sensitive cells on a single sliver of silicon. This is the "eye" which transforms light signals into electrical pulses with which

an ordinary TV display can be driven.

The high cost of development at this stage owes much to low-volume production and rela-

tively poor yields of the complex chips, the slightest flaw in which is immediately magnified into a mark on the screen. Nevertheless, Marconi already imports them "in tens—and they're not getting left on the shelf," says Roger Durrant, marketing manager.

The attractions of the camera, he claims, are its small size, weight and power requirements—only 4 W—and the fact that it needs virtually no maintenance. One outlet is in research laboratories which use it as a video input to computers. Its flat "eye" is free from the distortions introduced at the periphery of the vidicon camera tube. This is an application Marconi plans to extend to production and process control. In surveillance, the small

size is an obvious advantage, but no less is its "twilight sight" since the sensitivity of its eye extends just into the infrared. Under water the convenience and safety (low voltage) and good spectral response are all big advantages in video recording.

The military is another customer, using it, for example, as a video recorder in the confines of aircraft cockpits, to make a record of performance.

The military is also the most obvious customer, initially at least, for a still more advanced CCD camera from Fairchild. Only the size of a pocket lighter, it uses a chip with nearly 200,000 photo-sensitive cells. Built into this miracle of micro-miniature engineering is a thermo-electric cooler and an automatic (motor-driven) iris.

Marconi Avionics is cagey about quoting costs but, given current production levels and low yields in making an exceptionally large chip, unit price at present is of the order of £10,000. But it is small enough to televise continuously the "head-up" display projected on the pilot's windscreen without

obscuring the pilot's vision, yet robust enough to stand up to the sun's glare.

The U.S. Air Force is in the final stages of a competition between Fairchild and another maker of a micro-miniature CCD camera for a high-resolution video system it wants to build into at least four of its warplanes. Success could mean production orders for literally thousands of cameras.

The agreement with Fairchild permits Marconi to take what it sees as the crucial module of this camera—namely the eye itself and its 8-watt cooler—and engineer it into its own military systems, such as its "head-up" displays. In quantity production, it believes the camera could work out at less than 10 per cent of the cost of such a system, a price comparable with that for the bigger general-purpose CCD camera. This in turn could open up paramilitary and civilian markets for the more discreet kinds of surveillance.

*Industrial Innovation. Report of the Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development, HMSO, £1.

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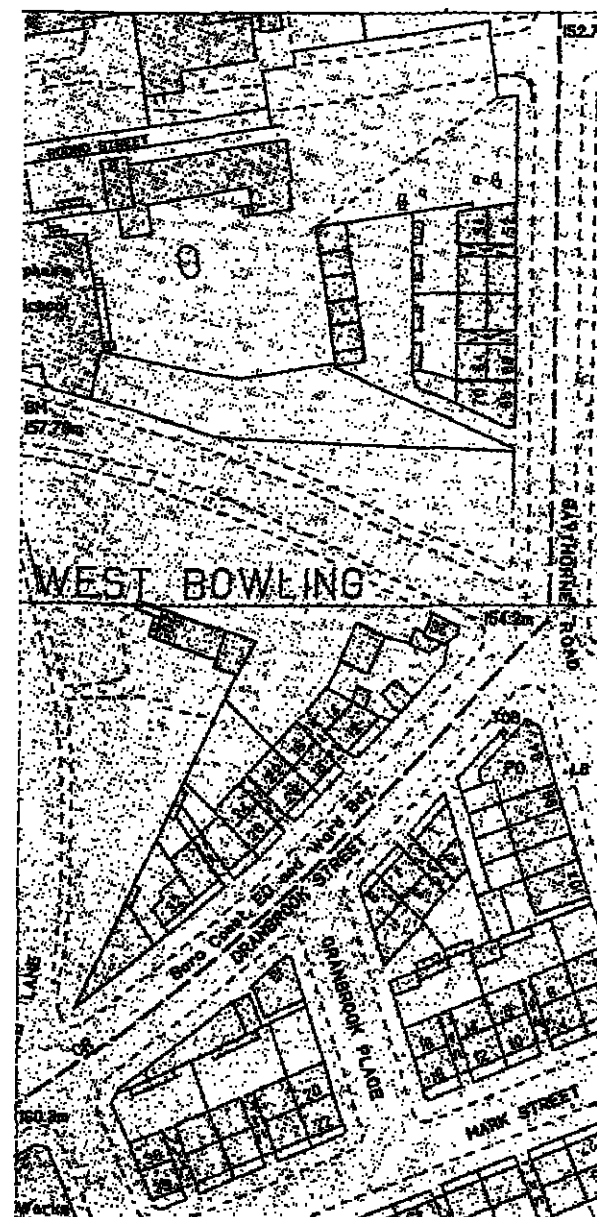
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Monday March 12 1979

Challenges for the Nine

HEADS OF Government who attend EEC summit meetings nowadays try to divide their time between issues requiring immediate decisions and those that they simply want to mull over in the hope of reaching a more general, long-term political consensus. The topics for discussion at the meeting of the European Council that opens in Paris today are likely to fall almost entirely in the latter category. Until only a few days ago, it had been thought that the summit's main task would be to clear up the technical difficulties that have delayed the start of the new European Monetary System (EMS) for more than two months.

Following France's sudden announcement in the middle of last week that it would no longer hold up the system's introduction, this will not after all be necessary. The Heads of Government are to be spared two days of wrangling over the technical intricacies of the Community's farm pricing arrangements that had caused France to withhold its final endorsement.

Disruption

Given that there are no other burning issues on which the summit has to produce a final ruling, the Paris meeting looks like being a rather low-key affair, at least as an immediate event. But that is no reason for underestimating the importance of the subjects that are likely to be on the table. Broadly speaking, the Heads of Government will be trying to approach to most of the major problems now threatening the Community—the social tensions created by low growth and unemployment, and the risk of a serious disruption of energy supplies in the wake of the upheaval in Iran. It will be hard for them to avoid a much wider discussion of the increasing volatile state of world power relationships in the light of the Indo-Chinese war, the question marks still hanging over a new Soviet-American strategic arms limitation agreement, the precarious situation in Southern Africa, and the unpredictable outcome of events in the Middle East, from Turkey, via the Middle East, to Pakistan.

With President Carter visiting the Middle East, and the success of his mission still in the balance, the Nine are unlikely to want to take a major public initiative. But it would be short-sighted of the European leaders not to think seriously about the implications for Europe of Mr. Carter's diplomacy, whether it succeeds or fails. They will no doubt examine how far the Nine should seek to play a greater international role at a time of increasing concern throughout the West at the inadequacy of U.S. leadership.

It is in this context that President Giscard d'Estaing will be pursuing his proposal for a summit meeting of the leaders of West European countries (both inside and outside the EEC), the states of the Arab League, and African countries bordering the Mediterranean. His idea is that such a meeting should "look for an agreement that would tighten the ties of solidarity between Europe, Africa and the Arab states," both to improve security and reduce tension and to promote economic development.

It is not a proposal that is likely to receive a very warm reception from his colleagues, many of whom see it as an attempt to enhance French prestige and influence. That, however, is no reason for not more generally exploring the possibility of the Community putting its economic strength to greater political use.

On the internal front, Mr. Callaghan will be hoping to make use of the next two days to underline points that the UK has recently been making about the workings of the Common Agricultural Policy and the Community's budget. He does not, apparently, intend to be particularly abrasive. He will, however, make a general understatement that the present financial system is particularly unfair to the UK, and that something will have to be done about it. He can be expected to repeat Britain's determination to see farm prices frozen, in advance of the resumption of the annual price review by Ministers of Agriculture later in the month. He may not find it easy, after a lengthy negotiation and one re-negotiation, to win general approval for his contention that the UK is unfairly treated.

New members

That in itself, however, is again no reason why the Community should not take a serious look at how it is working, both internally and externally, as it prepares for three potentially important steps forward—the introduction of EMS, the first direct elections to the European Parliament, and the admission of Greece, Portugal and Spain as new members. As host, President Giscard d'Estaing will want the summit to be a success, particularly as he is under fire at home for his European policies. The EMS decision will no doubt provide plenty of scope for self-congratulation. It is also to be hoped that the Heads of Government will make full use of their time to tackle some of the wider challenges that the Community now faces.

Local spending on the turn

THERE WAS never any real chance of this year's local rates increases being kept within the 10 per cent mark which Mr. Peter Shore, the Environment Secretary, held out in prospect in November. The hope was doomed at the outset when he announced the cash limit for this year's government grant to local councils. The limit was based upon the rates of increase in pay and other costs Ministers were still hoping for rather than upon what by November would have been more realistic inflation assumptions, and this left local councils in an impossible situation.

Assurance

The law forbids them from borrowing to cover a revenue deficit and insists that they should avoid having to ask ratepayers for a supplementary rates increase at half year. So rate calls have had to be pitched at a level that appeared safe.

BARRICADES, riot police in black helmets and tear gas canisters are as much part of the French image as berets, baguette loaves and well-engineered cars. Their reappearance in the Lorraine and northern steel towns of Longwy, Dordogne and Valenciennes during the past few weeks in violent clashes with steelworkers whose jobs are threatened, no doubt conjures up for many the heady days of the 1968 student revolt.

Foreign and French observers have begun to ask themselves whether France, which for the past 10 years has gone through a period of remarkable political stability and economic prosperity, is on the threshold of yet another revolutionary experiment. In spite of the seriousness of the industrial unrest in the steel-making regions, the answer is almost certainly no.

One of the essential differences with 1968 is that the uprising 11 years ago was sparked off by student intellectuals who were protesting not only against the appalling conditions in the universities, but against a particularly unimaginative regime, which was unable to understand the basic needs and aspirations of a whole post-war generation.

Moreover, the movement was centred on Paris, with all the spectacular mass demonstrations and pressures on a Government that a capital city can provide.

Today, unrest is confined to Lorraine and the northern regions of France, regions with declining industries. Paris remains quiet, except when the steelworkers invade the capital for short demonstrations. The protest movement is not global or philosophical as it was in 1968, but specifically tied to demands that the Government's plans for restructuring the steel industry which was announced last September, should not lead to a massive loss of jobs.

If the French Government had felt so inclined, it could have defused the unrest long ago by the kind of concessions that British Governments regularly make to the trade unions. But President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and his Prime Minister, M. Raymond Barre, have a master plan for the economy which they are not prepared to abandon for fear that France will share Britain's and Italy's economic fate and thus lose its much-treasured international political influence.

The economic justification for this grand design can hardly be questioned, though it has been implemented with too much dogmatic rigidity and a lack of insight into the reactions of the workers who are its victims.

As long as M. Barre was pursuing the first phase of his stabilisation plan, introduced in September 1976, the Government found it relatively easy to hold the line. Indeed, M. Barre's stubborn refusal to budge from policies which would reduce the rate of inflation, bring the trade balance back into equilibrium and stabilise the franc on the foreign exchange

markets, initially won him a great deal of popularity. The Prime Minister, who has always said that it would take three years for his stabilisation policies to bear fruit, can justly claim a number of successes. The trade deficit which, in 1976, still amounted to more than FF20bn (about £2.4bn) was halved the following year and moved into a FF2.5bn surplus in 1978.

As a result of international confidence in M. Barre's policies, as well as the decline of the dollar, the franc has consistently performed well on the exchange markets, even in relation to the hard European currencies.

On the other hand, M. Barre has done much less well on the inflation front, particularly given his aim to bring down French price rises to something approaching the West German level. The Prime Minister argues that inflation would have been much worse if it had not been for his restrictive policies, but it was still running at 9.7 per cent last year, which was even higher than in 1977.



Angry steelworkers from Usinor's Denain plant, protesting against planned job losses, look on as furniture blazes in the street after a raid on the Chamber of Employers' offices in Valenciennes.

for those laid off for "economic reasons" have helped to dampen discontent.

Most important, however, is the fact that wages have been allowed to keep pace with the rise in the official cost-of-living index. While purchasing power has remained theoretically frozen since the autumn of 1976, there has been no fall of living standards as in the UK. On the contrary, official figures show that real disposable incomes have risen since 1976 at an annual rate of more than 2 per cent.

The Government did not run into real trouble, therefore, until it announced its new industrial policies following the comfortable victory of the Centre-Right coalition parties in the general election in March last year.

With no election of any kind on the horizon for at least one year, President Giscard and M. Barre had a unique opportunity to put into practice their liberal economic philosophy which, they felt, had been endorsed by the voters.

There were two main elements to M. Barre's latest plan, which was based on the conviction that French industry had been feather-bedded for too long and that it must make an all-out effort to modernise itself and become internationally competitive in the harsh post-1973 oil crisis climate.

The first measure taken was to free industrial prices, which had previously been subject to government control, in order to boost industry's falling profit margins and flagging investments.

The second was to oblige those industries which could not stand on their own feet to reorganise themselves into viable and fully competitive entities and to cease pouring government money into "lame ducks" just for the sake of keeping them going and to save jobs.

This policy has been reasonably successful in the case of the textile industry, where the celebrated Harrison affair, Harrison's five-man syndicate came to grief in 1973 on dubious credit insurance business: it was found that the syndicate had liabilities of at least £200,000, which eventually turned out to be 367,787 pre-decimal pounds.

Then the chairman, Arthur Sturge, persuaded the Lloyd's community to do the decent thing and pay up, a precedent which must be a consolation in some quarters over in Lime Street.

Shadow men

In Brazil, which has lately enjoyed a certain relaxation of government control, censorship has for whatever reason once had. Even the police, I hear, have no wish to be censors. Colonel Moscir Coelho, the police director-general, says he does not mind who does the censoring "just as long as we don't have to do it."

One can see what he means. "The film 'Clockwork Orange', banned for years, has just been released intact. The censor's job was confined to the tedious painting-in of thousands of discreet shadow patches to protect the innocent. Not very long ago, Brazil's blue-pencil men could make their mark on anything they liked, or ban it if the mood took them.

Why the steel men won't bend to M. Barre

BY ROBERT MAUTHNER, in Paris

debt-ridden Marcel Bouscasse empire was dismantled, and much of it bled off to another large textile company. But the government was faced with a real problem when it came to the steel industry which, though it was virtually bankrupt, could not be allowed to go to the wall because of its importance to the national economy.

With medium and long-term debts standing at FF38bn in 1978, equal to the previous year's total turnover, and annual losses running into several billions of francs, the industry was in a hopeless situation. No solution could be found short of the government taking a substantial direct stake in the leading steel groups.

The measures taken under the Government's restructuring plan of last September are much more radical and painful than they would have been if they had been adopted progressively over a number of years, as they were in West Germany.

The plan provides for the shedding of some 20,000 jobs in the steel industry over the next two years, all concentrated in Lorraine and in northern French areas where industry is not very diversified.

M. Barre repeatedly emphasises that there is no real choice if the industry is to survive. It is to either a question of less employment or no employment at all.

The industry's problems were further underlined by M. Claude Etcheberry, the new chairman appointed by the Government to head the Usinor group, one of the two leading companies. The group, he said, was faced with the obligation of balancing its accounts by 1980-81 and had to finance investments of FF600m per year over a three-year period.

It again expected to make a loss of FF1.1bn (about £115m) in 1979 after a deficit of FF1.2bn last year. The margin for modifying the restructuring plan was therefore very small.

In spite of a whole panoply of special measures announced by the Government, and an undertaking that all laid-off workers would be guaranteed an income or other jobs for at least the next two years, the unions remain unimpressed. They intend to continue their protests and demonstrations until the restructuring plan is fundamentally rejigged.

The government has offered to reduce the early retirement age for all steelworkers to 35 years and to 50 for those in the toughest jobs, as well as proposing a "golden handshake" of FF30,000 (about £3,800) to workers who give up their jobs voluntarily.

It has also proposed the creation of special "conversion companies" in which laid-off workers can be retrained for other jobs on full pay.

A FF3bn government "industrial adaptation fund" has promised help in creating some 12,000 jobs in Lorraine, the north of France and other affected areas. The government is also pressing Ford Motor to site its projected new European assembly plant in eastern France. All to no avail. The steelworkers want jobs and nothing but jobs.

However, well-founded the government's economic arguments are, there can be no doubt that it has handled the situation with an extraordinary lack of sensitivity and imagination. When the restructuring plan was announced, the unions were more or less faced with a "fait accompli" instead of having been consulted in advance on its detailed provisions.

Given that the government had been subsidising the steel industry for many years, it was also conceivable that it could have spun out its aid for a little longer and thus staggered the job-shedding over several years. The harsh announcement that 20,000 jobs would go in two years, after the disappearance of 12,000 during the previous two years, was too bitter a pill for the steelworkers to swallow.

It remains to be seen how President Giscard will react in the longer run. Up to now, he has gone out of his way publicly to support M. Barre, whose policies are, in effect, the President's own. Clearly he will not replace the Prime Minister under pressure from the Left-wing parties and the Gaullists.

But by the autumn, the President will start to think about his own prospects for the 1981 electoral election, and may well hesitate to embark on the campaign with a Prime Minister and government whose economic and industrial policies have become increasingly unpopular.

Godsend for Chirac

For M. Jacques Chirac, who has long criticised M. Barre's economic policies and who now fails to exploit any situation which will further his prospects for the next Presidential election due in 1981, the steelworkers' protests have come as a godsend. The debate on unemployment, for which he took the initiative, will give him an opportunity to demonstrate that the Gaullists are able to offer a real alternative to the present government. Not least, M. Chirac hopes to catch votes for the European elections due in June.

M. Barre's government, however, is safe for the moment. Fearful that its defeat could bring about a general election which in the present climate would well be won by the Left-wing Opposition, M. Chirac has announced that the Gaullists will not support any motion tabled by the Socialists and Communists. The necessary absolute majority for carrying a censure motion will thus not be forthcoming.

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MEN AND MATTERS

Rolling in the Eady money

One of the recent successes, if that is the right word, in the British film industry has been the "Eady" money, a remarkable support fund about skateboarding made by a company called James Street Productions. Its claim to fame? It tops the list in the latest figures issued by the Department of Trade for distribution of so-called Eady money, the 10 per cent levy on box office receipts which since 1950, has been distributed for the benefit of British film makers.

During the five-week period ending on December 30 last year, Hot Wheels rolled in £98,135 of Government money, £3,000 ahead of Watership Down, and £74,000 ahead of Midnight Express. During the same period before that, Hot Wheels attracted £122,907. All this for a film that cost something like £15,000 to make.

The secret of its success, I was told at Friday's third birthday party of the Association of Independent Producers, is extremely simple. It was put on with the blockading film Grease, and being a short film attracted two-and-a-half times the Eady subsidy, with no cut-off point.

"In all it is going to make, with its 6 per cent allocation of the box-office, about £750,000," says Richard Craven, an independent producer who started the AIP.



"I can't stand his 'more comparable than thou' attitude."

Eady money. In fact all the payees listed by the Board of Trade are distributors.

"The market is so unhealthy," says Craven, "that the few films that are making money are probably the ones that do not need it."

Past hope

While they await the result of the fierce debate of Lloyd's over whether the market should bail them out of their £130m predicament, the 110 members of the Frederick Sasse syndicate are no doubt pondering the chances of being thrown a life-belt.

With each member standing to lose an average of £156,000, one or two of the supremely unfortunate, facing a bill of £351,000, it is a matter of some importance, to them at least.

The "more philosophical" may reflect that individual syndicates have often been burdened with large losses, as when Hurricane Betsy laid the rounds in the mid-60s.

The less philosophical, or less wealthy, may prefer to recall

the new mood of freedom, censorship is just no fun any more—a pernicious activity which earns the censor no friends (despite official concern with controlling at least pornography and overtly-Marxist publications. The latest to turn down the job has been the Department of Education.

Keeping counsel

Conforming with one prediction made after he unexpectedly left his promising career at the Treasury two years ago, Alan Lord, 49, now managing director of Dunlop outside Europe is emerging in a semi-public

role. His appointment as chairman of the CBI's taxation committee comes within a few days of his two years' "quarantine" being up.

One of the architects of the present Government's industrial strategy, and previously a leading light of the Inland Revenue, Lord could hardly be better qualified for the job.

His task at the CBI will be to formulate the confederation's proposals for the next Finance Bill. He had, he says, nothing to do with this year's proposals, involving cuts of £1bn in direct taxation. "But I agree with them," he says quietly. Lord is still mandarin enough to remain discreet about how things looked during his years on the other side of the fence: "You are really asking what advice I gave to the minister. I can't say—that's a piece of protocol."

As for suggestions that he might one day return to the Treasury, where he seemed to have the headship sewn up, Lord says he has "yet to feel the first pang of regret" about leaving and intends to stay—as he once put it—"at the coal-face."

Late arrivals

The private investor may be dead but his shadow fingers on the Stock Exchange stand at the Ideal Homes Exhibition (well, why not?) has been doing steady business fielding questions from would-be players of the market. Most I hear, ask breathlessly how they can

Local difficulties

British exporters are a resilient lot these days, but one manager I spoke to was surely pushing urbanity to its limits when he described the revolution in Iran as "the current administrative re-organisation."

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FINANCIAL TIMES

Eurobond Quotations and Yields

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At 28th FEBRUARY 1979

The Association of International Bond Dealers (AIBD) compiles current market quotations and yields for Eurobond issues. These quotations and yields are published monthly by the Financial Times. The Association's prices and yields are compiled from quotations obtained from market-makers on the last working day of each month. There is no single stock exchange for Eurobonds in the usually recognised sense—secondary market trading business is done on the telephone between dealers scattered across the world's major financial centres. Membership of the AIBD (which was established in 1969) comprises over 450 institutions from about 27 countries.

Eurobonds in February

BY FRANCIS GHILES

February will go down in the international bond markets as the month which witnessed the sudden opening up of the new issue market for straight dollar denominated bonds: two and a half weeks later however the door was slammed. About \$1.75bn worth of new issues had been floated in the meantime though how much of the bonds had been placed in firm hands remains a favourite subject of debate in the bond fraternity. While the dollar sector was struggling with these new issues, the overloaded Deutsch-

mark sector was also going through a difficult period. The greater stability of the dollar, the growing gap between domestic German interest rates and the coupons offered on foreign DM bonds, the too large calendar of new issues decided for February, all combined to make this sector a less than happy place. Finally, at the end of the month, with all the other sectors of the market in full retreat, the sterling sector, riding on the back of the rather unusual events in the gilt edged market

witnessed a flurry of activity which has included, to date, one new issue.

At the first sign of a thaw in the dollar sector, just at the end of January, two borrowers decided to test the temperature and launch new issues: the decline in interest and Euro-certificate of deposit rates, better than expected U.S. money market rates, and a string of statements from senior U.S. officials all pointed in the direction of a more stable dollar.

The two first borrowers to test

the market, New Brunswick Electricity Power Corporation and Hudson's Bay Company, were well respected names. The amounts of each bond were small and the 10 per cent indicated coupons the highest in the current cycle. The flood of new issues released during the second week of last month confirmed that to entice any investors, a higher coupon level was needed.

One striking feature of the new issues was the number of U.S. names among the borrowers: one could say they dominated it. U.S. corporations have tended to disregard the eurobond market for their dollar needs in recent years, apparently feeling that the U.S. bond market served their needs better. The speed with which a eurobond offering can be mounted appears to have been a major reason why so many U.S. names decided to have a go on this side of the Atlantic. Speed is essential when interest rates subside briefly as they did last month.

The protracted procedures any borrower has to go through in New York, where the agreement of the Securities and Exchange Commission is required may not be a major hurdle when exchange and interest rates are stable, but it can be in the current volatile climate.

Another factor which may lie behind the rush of American names is that many treasurers believe that inflationary pressures in the U.S. this year could lead to a protracted period of

high interest rates, particularly if the U.S. economy remains resilient in the face of the rise in energy prices. A eurobond which includes a yield of 10 per cent or just under is thus viewed as a reasonable proposition, all the more in view of the provisions for very early calls which are increasingly included. This technique which allows the offerings to be retired early if interest rates subside next year offers an efficient insurance for the borrower.

Another interesting feature of the new issues is that most of them have been taken firm by the banks: underwriting and selling groups have thus often been done away with. Two reasons may help to explain this shift in technique. One that difficult conditions in the market made borrowers cautious. They did not wish to be forced to sweeten the terms during the offering period, even less did they wish to be forced to withdraw the issue (only one new issue was withdrawn last month, the \$25m offering for Itel). The second reason may be found in the number of U.S. borrowers: in the U.S. bond market they are used to seeing terms set before an issue is launched and they may be trying to get the eurobond market to adopt similar techniques.

When the new issues flood was at its height, bankers in private were expressing grave doubts as to the market's ability to absorb so much new paper. Their fears were borne out in the performance of many

issues which moved to a sharp discount once they started trading. In many instances the yield in the secondary market moved above 10 per cent.

By the end of the month the flow of investor funds into the market had virtually dried up: the authorities in Switzerland, West Germany and Japan were taking measures to tighten credit to counter the inflationary effects of higher oil prices and further rises in U.S. interest rates were feared. Political uncertainties around the world also made for caution. Prices in the secondary market were broadly retreating.

In the dollar sector, the star casualty last month was the Honda convertible: it was hit by a combination of factors which included a weakening of the Yen against the dollar, the poor performance of the Tokyo Stock Exchange and the increased pressure on the price of oil, which would directly affect a motor company.

Japanese convertibles also suffered badly in the Deutsche Mark sector. The number of Japanese DM convertibles for the second quarter is being sharply reduced and a massive switch into the Swiss Franc sector is being planned in Tokyo.

The Deutsche Mark sector has been morose for much of the month as the coupons on foreign bonds were brought into line with the higher interest rates prevailing on domestic issues. By the end of the month, the tone was happier, helped by the

success of a major domestic bond.

Activity increased somewhat as did prices in the secondary sector: this trend was expected to continue, helped by the sharp cut in the new issue calendar for March.

The one exception to the dismal scene in the markets at the end of February was the UK Government bond market: foreign applications for gilt edge offerings were very high because the return on the stocks between 13-13½ per cent was considered very attractive given expectations that sterling will remain steady and that the UK economy is in part insulated from the worst effects of higher OPEC prices by North Sea oil. Demand for gilt edged spilled over into the Eurosterling sector of the bond market. This prompted Finance for Industry to issue a £10m (later raised to £15m) bond with a 13-year maturity and a 13 per cent coupon. The anonymity with which investors can buy sterling eurobonds help to explain why the yield on such issues is usually lower than that available on the equivalent gilt edge stock.

The issue which was priced at par traded at a premium when it opened in the secondary market. The Swiss Franc sector was very active with a record number of new issues, many in the form of private placements. Foreign governments, particularly Commonwealth countries, were among the heaviest borrowers.

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—Finland	II	—South Africa	III	Saudi Riyals	VI
US Dollars—France	II	—Spain	III	Sterling/DM	VI
—Germany	II	—Sweden	III-IV	Australian Dollar/DM	VI
—Greece	II	US Dollars—Switzerland	IV	External Sterling Issues	VI
US Dollars—Hong Kong	II	—Venezuela	IV	Special Drawing Rights	VI
—Hungary	II	—United Kingdom	IV	Convertible—France	VI
—Iceland	II	—United States	IV	—Hong Kong	VI
—Iran	II	US Dollars—Multinational	IV	—Japan	VI
US Dollars—Ireland	II	—Supranational	IV	—Luxembourg	VI
—Israel	II	US Dollars—Floating Rate	IV-V	—Netherlands	VI
—Italy	II	Australian Dollars	V	Convertible—Singapore	VI
—Japan	II-III	Bahraini Dinars	V	—S. Africa	VI
US Dollars—Japan	II-III	Austrian Schillings	V	—Sweden	VI
—Korea	III	Canadian Dollars	V	—Switzerland	VI
—Luxembourg	III	Eurodollars	V	—U.K.	VI
		Euro Composite Units	V	Convertible—U.S.	VI

The table of quotations and yields gives the latest rates available on 31st January, 1979. This information is from reports from official and other sources which the Association of International Bond Dealers considers to be reliable, but adequate means of checking its accuracy are not available and the Association does not guarantee that the information it contains is accurate or complete. All rates quoted are for indication purposes only and are not based on, nor are they intended to be used as a basis for, particular transactions. In quoting the rates the Association does not undertake that its members will trade in all the listed Eurobonds and the Association, its members and the Financial Times Limited do not accept any responsibility for errors in the table.

COMPILED FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL BOND
DEALERS BY INTERBOND SERVICES LTD. ★ A subsidiary of data
STREAM International

Extracts from the Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1978.

البنك العربي الافريقي الدولي

arab african international bank

ASSETS	1978 000S	1977 000S
Cash and Due from Banks	135 163	112 325
Fixed Deposits with Banks and Certificates of Deposit	302 775	168 667
Marketable Securities	14 968	6 557
Government Bonds	26 059	22 503
Investments in Affiliated and Associated Companies	14 486	8 385
Other Securities	2 966	2 740
Loans, Advances and Bills Discounted	636 324	440 073
Other Debit Accounts	20 472	16 745
Fixed Assets (after depreciation)	6 990	1 513
Clients' Liabilities for Letters of Credit and Letters of Guarantee (as per contra)	1 160 203	779 508
	318 019	222 893
Grand Total	1 478 222	1 002 401
LIABILITIES		
Demand and Fixed Deposits	476 117	325 982
Time and Fixed Deposits from Banks	491 983	229 404
Bank Borrowings	34 259	96 570
Dividends for 1978	4 858	4 000
Other Credit Accounts and Provisions	57 020	45 298
	1 064 237	701 254
CAPITAL AND RESERVES		
Authorised Capital, Fully Subscribed	100 000*	40 000
Paid-Up Capital	50 000	4 931
Statutory Reserve (share premium included)	6 829	32 675
General Reserve	38 475	648
Profit Carried Forward	662	
Bank's Liability for Letters of Credit and Letters of Guarantee (as per contra)	1 160 203	779 508
	318 019	222 893
Grand Total	1 478 222	1 002 401

(The total dividend for this year amounted to 11%, against 10% in the preceding year)

* Authorised Capital in 1977 was US\$ 40 M.
+ US\$ 10 M was paid on 1st August 1978.

International Head Office:
44, Abdel Khalek Sarwat Street, Cairo. Telephone: 920 390 - 916 710 - 916 744.
Telex: ARBER 92071 - ARBERO 363 - AABEX 93600 - ARABEX 304 - ARABEX 306.

All of these securities having been sold, this announcement appears as a matter of record only.

8th March, 1979



Nippon Meat Packers, Inc.

(Nippon Ham Kabushiki Kaisha)

12,000,000 Shares of Common Stock

represented by Continental Depositary Receipts

ISSUE PRICE US \$2.973 PER SHARE

Yamaichi International (Europe) J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co.
Limited Limited

Crédit Lyonnais Crédit Suisse First Boston Dresdner Bank
Limited Limited Aktiengesellschaft

Goldman Sachs International Merrill Lynch International Samuel Montagu & Co.
Corp. & Co. Limited

The Nikko Securities Co., (Europe) New Japan Securities Europe
Ltd. Ltd.

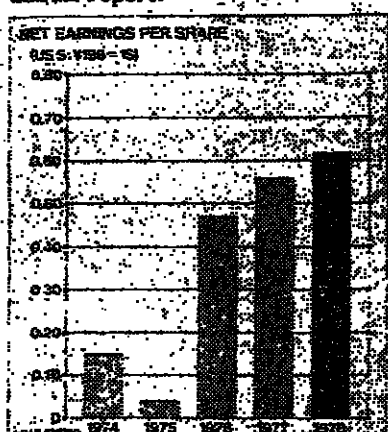
Abu Dhabi Investment Company Alahli Bank of Kuwait (K.S.C.) Algemeine Bank Nederland N.V. A.E. Ames & Co.
Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank N.V. Banca Commerciale Italiana Banca del Gottardo Banca Nazionale del Lavoro
Banca di Roma Bank Gutzwiller, Kurz, Bungeener (Overseas) Bank Leu International Ltd. Bank Mees & Hope NV
Banque Bruxelles Lambert S.A. Banque Française du Commerce Extérieur Banque de l'Indochine et de Suez
Banque Nationale de Paris Banque de Neufilze, Schlumberger, Mallet Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas
Banque Populaire Suisse S.A. Luxembourg Banque Rothschild Banque de l'Union Européenne Banque Worms
Barings Brothers & Co., Bayerische Vereinsbank Berliner Handels- und Frankfurter Bank
Blyth Eastman Dillon & Co. International Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations W.I. Carr, Sons & Co., London
Cazenove & Co. (Overseas) Christiania Bank og Kreditkasse Continental Illinois County Bank
Creditanstalt-Bankverein Crédit Commercial de France Crédit Industriel et Commercial Crédit du Nord
Daiwa Europe N.V. Deutsche Bank Aktiengesellschaft Dewazay & Associés International Société Anonyme
DG Bank Deutsche Genossenschaftsbank Dillon, Read Overseas Corporation European Banking Company
Robert Fleming & Co. Genossenschaftliche Zentralbank AG Antony Gibbs Holdings Ltd.
Girozentrale und Bank der Österreichischen Sparkassen Hambros Bank Hessische Landesbank-Girozentrale
Hill Samuel & Co. Aktiengesellschaft E.F. Hutton International N.V. IBI International Interallianz Bank Zürich AG
Japan International Bank Jardine Fleming & Company Kleinwort, Benson Kreditbank S.A. Luxembourgeoise
Kuhn Loeb Lehman Brothers Asia Kuwait Foreign Trading, Contracting & Investment Co. (S.A.K.)
Kuwait International Investment Co. s.a.k. Kuwait Pacific Finance Company Ltd. Lazard Frères et Cie
Loeb Rhoades, Hornblower International Manufacturers Hanover B. Metzler seel. Sohn & Co.
Mitsubishi Bank (Europe) S.A. Mitsui Finance Europe Morgan Grenfell & Co. Morgan Stanley International
MTCB & Schroder Bank S.A. National Bank of Abu Dhabi Nederlandsche Middenstandsbank N.V.
Nippon European Bank S.A. Nippon Kangyo Kakumaru (Europe) Nomura Europe N.V. Okasan Securities Co., Ltd.
Sal. Oppenheim jr. & Cie Orion Bank Osakaya Securities Co., Ltd. Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation Ltd.
Overseas Union Bank Paine Webber Jackson & Curtis Securities Ltd. Pierson, Halding & Pierson N.V.
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Smith Barney, Harris Upham & Co. Incorporated Société Générale Société Générale de Banque S.A.
Strauss, Turnbull & Co. Swiss Bank Corporation (Overseas) Takagin International (Asia)
Tokai Kyowa Morgan Grenfell Trinkauf & Burkhardt Union Bank of Switzerland (Securities)
Vereins- und Westbank Aktiengesellschaft Vickers da Costa International Ltd. Wako Securities Company
S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. Wardley Wood Gundy Yamaichi International (HK) Yamatane Securities Co., Ltd.

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TDK
TDK ELECTRONICS CO., LTD.
 1-1-1, Nishinabashi 1-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100, Japan

Austrian Quotes

Quotations and Yields of Austrian Eurobonds

ISSUE	COUPON DATES	REPAYMENT	SINKING FUND (STARTING)	PRICE		CURRENT YIELD	CURRENT YIELD TO MATURITY
				BID	ASKED		
D-MARK BONDS							
61% Brenner Autobahn 1968 (G)	1.2-1.8	1.874-83	1.873	100+	101+	6.89%	6.82%
6% Donaukraftwerke 1953 (G)	1.2-1.8	1.265-84	—	100	100+	5.98%	6.01%
68% Donaukraftwerke 1973 (G)	1.3	1.237-87	1.127	100+	101	6.70%	6.83%
7% Girozentrale Wien 1967	1.11	1.11-81	—	102+	103	6.82%	5.92%
71% Girozentrale Wien 1976	1.11	1.11-83	—	104+	105+	6.91%	6.03%
61% LAKW 1975 (G)	1.1	1.53-86	—	103	105	6.28%	7.25%
63% Kelag 1973 (G)	1.1	1.75-88	1.278	100+	101+	6.68%	6.50%
61% Oester. Druckkraftwerke 1975 (G)	1.3	1.3-81-85	—	105+	106+	3.25%	7.49%
7% Oester. Elektrizitätswirt 1967 (G)	1.2-1.8	1.72-87	—	101+	102+	6.89%	6.83%
7% Rep. Oesterreich 1968	1.4-1.10	1.473-82	1.473	101+	102+	6.92%	6.69%
61% Rep. Oesterreich 1969	1.4-1.10	1.475-83	1.174	101+	102+	3.88%	6.07%
61% Rep. Oesterreich 1975	1.2	1.2-83	—	104+	105	6.42%	6.97%
61% Rep. Oesterreich 1976	1.5	1.578-87	1.277	105+	106+	8.01%	7.48%
73% Rep. Oesterreich 1976	2.5	2.533-86	1.282	104+	105	7.40%	6.90%
61% Rep. Oesterreich 1977	1.4	1.4-83-85	2.182	104	103	6.58%	6.22%
61% Tauernkraftwerke 1968 (G)	1.2-1.8	1.874-83	1.873	104+	101+	6.42%	6.28%
7% Tauernkraftwerke 1968 (G)	1.2-1.8	1.274-83	—	104+	102+	6.58%	6.44%
61% Tauernautobahn 1974 (G)	1.7	1.7-81	—	101+	106+	8.79%	5.73%
61% Voest 1973	1.10	1.107-88	1.678	102+	105+	8.11%	7.79%
61% Voest 1975	1.6	1.6-81-85	—	101	105	8.13%	7.58%
61% Voest 1977	1.6	1.6-84-88	—	102	100+	6.72%	6.88%
7% Wien 1968	1.6-1.12	1.8-83	1.673	107+	102	7.86%	6.89%
61% Wien 1975	1.8	1.879-84	—	104+	106+	7.88%	7.17%
U.S. BONDS							
6% Rep. Austria 1984	31.1-31.7	31.171-84	31.170	97+	98+	6.12%	6.58%
61% Rep. Austria 1987	15.3-15.9	15.272-87	15.271	97+	98+	6.89%	7.60%
6% Rep. Austria 1976	15.3-15.9	15.378-80	—	97+	98+	9.14%	8.96%
61% Aust. Electricity 1966 (G)	1.1-1.7	1.770-86	1.769	98	98+	6.73%	7.01%
61% Aust. Electricity 1967 (G)	1.4-1.10	1.1071-82	1.1070	98	98+	6.89%	7.37%
61% Alpine Montan 1965 (G)	15.6	15.672-85	15.671	93	93+	6.18%	7.07%
61% Tauernautobahn 1977 (G)	15.3	15.353-87	15.352	92+	93+	8.07%	9.51%
61% Transalpine Fin. Hldg. 1968	31.7	31.770-85	11.069	94+	95+	7.94%	7.41%
61% Transalpine Fin. Hldg. 1969	31.7	31.770-85	13.769	94+	95+	7.09%	7.70%
61% Transalpine Fin. Hldg. 1967	31.1	31.173-82	31.172	97+	98+	6.89%	7.52%
61% Transalpine Fin. Hldg. 1987	30.4	30.474-83	30.473	97+	98+	6.87%	7.24%
71% Trans-Austria Gasline 1973	15.1	15.177-88	15.176	84+	85+	8.52%	10.09%
AUSTRIA SCHILLING BONDS							
94% Kontrollbank 1974 (G)	14.8	14.879	—	100+	101+	8.42%	7.80%
DOMESTIC ISSUES							
8% Investitionsanleihe 1973/B	15.2	15.277-81 (101)	—	101+	102+	7.84%	7.34%
8% Investitionsanleihe 1973/II/B	3.7	3.776-81 (102)	—	102	102+	7.94%	7.51%
8% Investitionsanleihe 1974/B	1.4	1.476-82 (104.50)	R	104+	105+	8.64%	7.56%
8% Investitionsanleihe 1974/II/B	22.10	22.107	—	101+	102	7.84%	7.52%
8% Investitionsanleihe 1975/II/B	11.6	11.676-84 (103)	—	103+	104	8.21%	8.12%
8% Investitionsanleihe 1975/III/B	23.7	23.770-84 (103)	—	103+	104	8.21%	8.12%
8% Investitionsanleihe 1975/III/B	28.10	28.107-84 (103)	—	104+	104+	8.19%	8.07%
8% Investitionsanleihe 1975/5/III/IV	27.12	27.127-85 (103.50)	—	105+	106	8.04%	7.77%
8% Investitionsanleihe 1975/5/III	12.12	12.127-85 (103.50)	—	105+	106	8.06%	7.82%
8% Investitionsanleihe 1976/5	20.2	20.281-86 (104)	—	105+	106+	8.06%	7.89%
8% Investitionsanleihe 1977/5/III/B	2.6	2.653-87	—	102+	103	7.77%	7.49%
8% Investitionsanleihe 1977/II/B	15.9	15.978-87	—	102+	103	7.47%	7.49%
8% Investitionsanleihe 1977/II/B	20.12	20.1282-86	—	102+	103	7.77%	7.47%
8% Wasserversorgungsanstalt 1977/III	3.6	3.682-86	—	102+	103	7.90%	7.76%
8% Energieanleihe 1975/II/B U.S.	29.10	29.1079-85 (103.50)	—	105+	106	8.06%	7.81%
8% Wiener Stadtanleihe 1975/B	29.4	29.476-83	—	101+	102+	8.26%	7.76%
8% Wiener Stadtanleihe 1977/A	19.5	19.578-82	—	102	102+	7.77%	7.63%
8% Wiener Stadtanleihe 1977/B	20.10	20.1075-82	—	102	102+	7.77%	7.48%
8% Europ. Investitionsbank Anl. 1976	10.5	10.578-86	—	102	102+	7.77%	7.50%
8% Inter-Am. Entwicklungsb. Anl. 1976	17.12	17.121-81	—	101+	102	7.84%	7.64%
8% Tag Finn. Anleihe 1976	19.11	19.1181-86	—	101+	102+	7.84%	7.64%
8% Sparkassenanleihe 1975/II/B	21.10	21.1077-83 (101)	—	103	103+	8.25%	7.47%
8% Sparkassenanleihe 1977/5/B	26.7	26.780-83	—	101+	102+	7.84%	7.53%

(R) Purchase for redemption purposes by issuer possible. The bonds so purchased may be used for repayment according to plan. (...) Repayment at a premium. (G) Government Guarantee. (S) Local Government Guarantee. Yield calculations are based on the middle price.

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INVESTMENT FUNDS

The following funds include Eurobond issues within their portfolios

Quotations & Yields as at 28th Feb., 1979

SOCIETE GENERALE De BANQUE

BANQUE GENERALE Du LUXEMBOURG

Fund	Price	First Issue Price	Yield %	Div. Date
endinvest	LuxFr 822	LuxFr 1000	8.35	20/11/78 (1981)
Capital Rentinvest	LuxFr 1375	LuxFr 1000	(Capitalisation)	

	1/3/78 High	28/2/79 Low	1/3/76 High	28/2/79 Low
endinvestment	LuxFr 918	LuxFr 814	LuxFr 918	LuxFr 814
Capital Rentinvest	LuxFr 1423	LuxFr 1292	LuxFr 1423	LuxFr 1310

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WestLB Euro-Deutschmarkbond Quotations and Yields

February 28th., 1979: 6.69% (January 31st.,

74%	Kommuni. Inst. 76/83	102.76	7.54	3.06	6.73
74%	Kommuni. Inst. 76/83	102.76	7.54	3.06	6.73
74%	Korea Dev. Bank 7/84 (G)	86.90	7.33	5.75	7.44
74%	Kubota Int'l 77/82SP	89.00	8.30	3.24	6.83
74%	Kvaerner Int'l 77/82SP	96.75	6.98	1.07	6.83
74%	Land-Service 71/82 (G)	105.40	8.06	3.00	6.64
74%	Land-Service 76/88 (G)	96.75	6.98	1.07	6.83
74%	Lanza Int'l 77/82SP	102.76	7.54	3.06	6.73
74%	Lanza Int'l 75/80P	101.26	8.15	1.21	7.03
74%	Malaysia 77/85	98.75	7.04	3.88	6.67
74%	Malaysia 77/85	97.29	6.98	8.50	7.04
74%	Matco 75/84	105.30	8.78	3.37	7.47
74%	Melroe 76/84	97.29	6.98	8.50	7.04
74%	Manitoba 77/84	102.76	7.54	3.06	6.73
74%	Manit. Hydro El. 72/87	101.00	6.88	2.24	6.84
74%	Megil Fin. Comp. 78/80	93.10	6.88	10.84	7.04
74%	M F P C 73/88	98.75	7.09	4.38	7.53
74%	Mexico 69/89	102.00	6.88	0.74	7.04
74%	Mexico 69/89	102.00	6.88	0.74	7.04
74%	Mexico 73/88	102.00	7.11	4.62	6.73
74%	Mexico 73/88	102.00	7.11	4.62	6.73
74%	Mexico 73/88	102.00	7.11	4.62	6.73
74%	Mexico 73/88	102.00	7.11	4.62	6.73
74%	Mexico 77/84	104.25	7.43	5.25	6.73
74%	Mexico 77/84	104.25	7.43	5.25	6.73
74%	Mitsubishi Gas 76/81P	101.26	8.65	0.15	6.64
74%	Mitsubishi Petro 76/83	100.75	5.81	5.50	6.64
74%	Mitsui Toatsu 76/81P	100.75	5.81	5.50	6.64
74%	MODE 75/83	103.85	8.67	2.71	7.04
74%	Montreal 69/89	100.00	7.00	5.31	7.00
74%	Montreal 72/87	100.00	7.00	5.31	7.00
74%	Montreal 73/83	98.26	8.87	14.25	6.94
74%	Montreal 76/88	103.50	8.21	3.65	7.25
74%	Montreal 77/87	103.50	8.21	3.65	7.25
74%	Morg. Denmark 69/84 (G)	102.45	3.30	3.07	6.97
74%	Morg. Denmark 73/88 (G)	100.45	6.97	4.66	6.97
74%	Morg. Bk. Fin. 76/84	100.45	6.97	4.66	6.97
74%	Morp. Mexico 69/79 (G)	100.00	7.25	0.26	7.31
74%	Naf. Mexico 76/83P (G)	105.50	8.28	4.75	7.04
74%	Naf. Mexico 76/83P (G)	105.50	8.28	4.75	7.04
74%	Naf. Mexico 77/84 (G)	105.50	8.28	4.75	7.04
74%	Naf. Mexico 77/84 (G)	105.50	8.28	4.75	7.04
74%	Naf. Mexico 77/84P (G)	105.00	8.33	5.00	7.51
74%	Naf. Mexico 77/84P (G)	105.00	8.33	5.00	7.51
74%	Nat. Bk. Hungary 77/85	96.30	7.77	6.67	7.04
74%	Nat. Leased 67/75	99.50	6.51	0.25	6.64
74%	Natl. Westm. Bk. 73/88	105.00	7.62	4.82	6.73
74%	New Brunswick 72/87	102.76	7.54	3.06	6.73
74%	Newfoundland 69/84	102.50	7.07	2.83	6.73
74%	Newfoundland 71/88	103.80	7.72	3.74	6.86
74%	Newfoundland 72/87	102.50	7.07	2.83	6.73
74%	Newfoundland 73/85	98.60	6.83	9.06	6.80
74%	New Zealand 69/84	101.70	6.64	2.86	6.18
74%	New Zealand 72/87	101.26	7.41	0.43	7.26
74%	New Zealand 75/80P	102.50	8.83	6.21	6.94
74%	New Zealand 75/80P	104.00	9.13	0.92	6.91
74%	New Zealand 75/80P	103.75	8.82	8.92	4.95
74%	New Zealand 75/80P	104.25	8.28	3.33	6.94
74%	New Zealand 75/82	105.50	9.24	0.80	6.80
74%	New Zealand 76/83	104.00	7.21	4.00	6.94
74%	New Zealand 76/83	104.00	7.21	4.00	6.94
74%	New Zealand 77/84	101.26	6.17	5.17	6.15
74%	New Zealand 78/85	95.00	5.53	7.00	6.15
74%	New Zealand 79/87	97.75	6.14	7.00	6.1

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The interest rates per annum applicable to the following US\$ Floating Rate Note issues were announced during February. These rates are quoted for information purposes only, and should be confirmed prior to the execution of a specific transaction. The rates quoted apply to the six-month periods shown.

	To	From	Rate
Arab Int'l Bank	1983	1 Feb 79	1 Aug 79 11 1/2%
C.I.C.	1981	1 Feb 79	1 Aug 79 11 1/2%
Jugobanka	1983	1 Feb 79	1 Aug 79 12 1/2%
S.N.C.F.	1985/87	2 Feb 79	2 Aug 79 11%
C.C.C.E.	1988	5 Feb 79	6 Aug 79 11 1/2%
Hapoalim Int'l	1983	5 Feb 79	6 Aug 79 11 1/2%
Cred. Lyonnais	1982	8 Feb 79	8 Aug 79 11 1/2%
Bq. Ext. d'Algerie	1984	9 Feb 79	9 Aug 79 11 1/2%
Cdt. Lyonnais (6% min)	1983	13 Feb 79	13 Aug 79 11 1/2%
Standard Chartered	1990	13 Feb 79	13 Aug 79 11 1/2%
Beo do Brasil	1982	15 Feb 79	15 Aug 79 11 1/2%
ESCOM	1982	15 Feb 79	15 Aug 79 12 1/2%
I.B.J. (6% min.)	1982	15 Feb 79	15 Aug 79 11 1/2%
L.T.C.B.	1983	15 Feb 79	15 Aug 79 11 1/2%
B.U.E.	1981	20 Feb 79	20 Aug 79 11 1/2%
B.N.P.	1984	21 Feb 79	21 Aug 79 11 1/2%
Midland Bank	1983	21 Feb 79	21 Aug 79 11 1/2%
B.N.P.	1991	23 Feb 79	23 Aug 79 11 1/2%
Alahli Bank	1983	23 Feb 79	23 Aug 79 11 1/2%
B.F.C.E.	1984	23 Feb 79	23 Aug 79 11 1/2%
Williams & Glyn's	1984	26 Feb 79	26 Aug 79 11 1/2%
Panama	1990	28 Feb 79	28 Aug 79 12 1/2%

Interest rates applicable to the issues listed below will be announced during March.

B.N.P.	1983
Hapoalim Int'l	1982
Bq. Louis-Dreyfus	1983
Leumi Int'l	1981
Leumi Int'l	1984
Nippon Credit Bank	1983
Sumitomo Heavy Industries	1983
B.N.P.	1981
Enpetrol	1986
U.B.A.F. (6 1/2% min.)	1982
Allied Irish Banks	1984
General Cable	1980

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Australia	7 1/2%	1984
Australia	8%	1982
Australia	8 1/2%	1983
Australia	8 1/2%	1991
Australia	8 1/2%	1992
AUSTRIA		
Austria	8 1/2%	1990
Oesterreichische Kontrollbank	7%	1980
Oesterreichische Kontrollbank	7 1/2%	1982
Timersautobahn	8 1/2%	1987
DENMARK		
Denmark	8 1/2%	1984
Mortgage Bank of Denmark	9%	1983
FRANCE		
Banque Française du Commerce Extérieur	8 1/2%	1983
Caisse Nationale des Autoroutes	9%	1986
Caisse Nationale des Autoroutes	9 1/2%	1991
Caisse Nationale des Télécommunications	8 1/2%	1989
Caisse Nationale des Télécommunications	9%	1993
Charbonnages de France	8 1/2%	1981
Credit National	8 1/2%	1986
Fort Automates	8 1/2%	1984
NEW ZEALAND		
Development Finance New Zealand	7 1/2%	1984
Development Finance New Zealand	8 1/2%	1983
Development Finance New Zealand	8 1/2%	1985
New Zealand	8 1/2%	1986
New Zealand	8 1/2%	1983
Offshore Mining	8 1/2%	1985
NORWAY		
Exportfinans	9%	1986
Norges Kommunalbank	8 1/2%	1991
Norges Kommunalbank	8 1/2%	1992
Norpipe	8 1/2%	1989
Norpipe	9 1/2%	1986
Norsk Hydro	8 1/2%	1992
Norsk Hydro	9%	1991
SWEDEN		
Gotaverken	7 1/2%	1982
Gotaverken	8%	1983
Gotaverken	8 1/2%	1986
Kockums	8%	1983
Swedish	7 1/2%	1982
Sweden	8 1/2%	1987
UNITED KINGDOM		
Barclays Bank	8 1/2%	1992
British Gas Corporation	9%	1981
Electricity Council	8 1/2%	1981
Midland Bank	8 1/2%	1986
Midland Bank	8 1/2%	1992
National Coal Board	8%	1987
National Coal Board	8 1/2%	1981
National Westminster Bank	9%	1986
SUPRANATIONALS		
European Coal and Steel	7 1/2%	1982
European Coal and Steel	7 1/2%	1981
European Coal and Steel	8 1/2%	1989
European Coal and Steel	8 1/2%	1997
European Coal and Steel	9%	1993
European Coal and Steel	9%	1995
European Coal and Steel	9 1/2%	1986
European Coal and Steel	9 1/2%	1998
European Economic Community	7 1/2%	1979
European Economic Community	7 1/2%	1982
European Economic Community	8 1/2%	1982
European Economic Community	8%	1984
European Investment Bank	8 1/2%	1983
European Investment Bank	8 1/2%	1987
European Investment Bank	8 1/2%	1988
European Investment Bank	8 1/2%	1988
European Investment Bank	8 1/2%	1992
European Investment Bank	8 1/2%	1995
European Investment Bank	9 1/2%	1993
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JUSCO	\$48 1/2
KOMATSU	
FORKLIFT	\$3.50
KUBOTA	\$27 1/2
MAKITA	\$29 1/2
MURATA	\$4.88
NIPPON MEAT	
PACKERS	\$2.83
PIONEER	\$21 1/2
RENOWN	\$3
SONY	\$8 1/2
TAISHO	
MARINE	\$11 1/2
TDK	\$8 5/8
TOKYO	
SANYO	\$1.83
TRIO	\$27
WACOAL	\$22 1/2

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Selected Austrian Schilling Bonds of Austrian issuers	Last Price	Yield to average life	Current Yield	Redemption (mandatory drawings by lot)
8 % Österreich 1973/B/81	102,—	7,16	7,84	15. 2,77-81 at 101,0
8 1/2% Österreich 1974/11/B/82	102,—	7,39	8,33	22.10.75-82 at 100,0
8 1/2% Österreich 1975/S/83	103,25	7,39	8,23	5. 3,76-83 at 100,0 to 101,0
8 1/2% Innsbruck 1974/B/82	102,75	7,27	8,27	19.11.75-82 at 100,5
8 1/2% Steyr-Daimler-Puch 1974/B/81	102,—	7,40	8,33	29.10.75-81 at 100,5

maturity over 5 years

8 1/2% Österreich 1976/S/86	105,50	7,54	8,06	20. 2,81-86 at 101,5 to 104,0
8 % Österreich 1976/S/11/B/86	102,90	7,38	7,77	22.11.83-86 at 100,0
8 % Österreich 1977/S/87	103,—	7,30	7,77	15. 2,82-87 at 100,0
8 % Arlberg-Strasentunnel 1977/B/85	102,—	7,35	7,84	29. 7,80-85 at 100,0
8 % Wien 1973/88	102,60	7,56	7,80	15. 5,74-88 at 101,0 to 101,5
7 3/4% CA-BV 1977/11/C/92	101,75	7,39	7,62	15.10.78-92 at 100,0
8 % Export 1978/B/93	102,25	7,26	7,82	11. 4,82-85 at 100,0
8 1/2% Energie 1975/11/B + S/85	105,75	7,46	8,04	29.10.79-85 at 103,5
8 % Energie 1978/B/87	103,25	7,30	7,75	1. 3,83-87 at 100,0
8 % VÖEST 1977/B/86	102,25	7,48	7,82	15.11.82-86 at 100,0

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5 3/4% Alpine Montan 65/85	6 % Rep. of Austria 64/84
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6 3/4% Austrian Electricity 67/82	8 3/4% Rep. of Austria 76/90
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هكلمن الأول

Budget hints for Mr. Healey

By PETER RIDDELL, Economics Correspondent

DENIS HEALEY will on 13 make his sixth spring statement and his final if the bookies' election odds anywhere near right. And it is one of the shortest, in his standards of relative brevity.

His not only reflects his lack of interest—even disdain—for reforms of the tax structure (shared by many Tories), but also because the main lines of the Budget strategy are already clear. There is still, of course, considerable uncertainty about the exact Budget figures and the specific details of doing anything, but the overall picture is limited—not only by Parliamentary and electoral considerations but also by clear limitations on monetary and fiscal policy. Some kind of unifying surprise measure can be ruled out entirely however.

Standards

Some of these constraints have deterred the many organisations whose Budget submissions are now piling up at the Treasury. Yet for all the differences in specific recommendations, most of the main bodies more or less agreed about short-term economic prospects.

he performance last year was too bad, at any rate by the standards of the previous five years. The 12-month rate of inflation came back down to single figures—touching a low of 7.4 per cent in the year. This, coupled with a tax cuts, sustained a sharp rise in living standards, a part level of consumer spending, and a 3 per cent rise in output.

et, as the TUC economic adviser puts it, "the outlook for the future is expansion through and beyond is not very

encouraging at present." Indeed industrial output appears to have been fairly flat from last summer onwards, even before allowing for recent industrial disputes, while unemployment has started to rise.

Moreover the acceleration in average earnings in last year's pay round—up from about 9 to 14 per cent—plus the sharp rise in world commodity prices in the past six months are already working through to the cost of living. Current pay settlements may give a temporary boost to demand but the experience of the past few years suggests that a rising rate of price inflation pushes up personal savings.

All this may lead to a slower growth of output. The London Business School, for instance, has projected a slowdown in the expansion of real Gross Domestic Product from 3.0 to 2.4 per cent between 1978 and 1979 and from 2.4 to 1.3 per cent once North Sea oil is excluded.

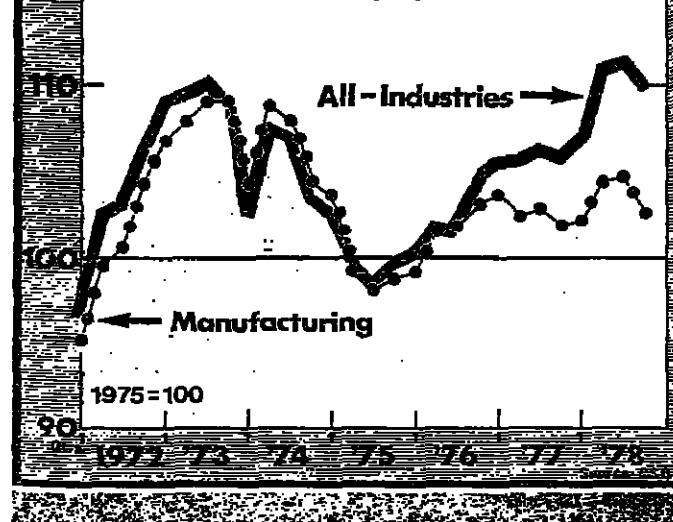
All this creates something of a dilemma for policymakers. As the recent National Institute of Economic and Social Research review pointed out, "with unemployment expected to rise to over 11m by the end of 1980, and with the current account of the balance of payments likely to be in surplus, even on the assumption of a stable exchange rate, there would, under normal circumstances, be a clear case for some degree of restraint."

This is indeed the argument of large parts of the Labour Party and important parts of the Conservative Party. The TUC says in its economic review that Mr. Healey should commit himself to an economic growth rate of at least 3 per cent in 1979-80 and apply the necessary stimulus in the Budget through income tax cuts and higher public spending.

But that is an unlikely option, to say the least, as is reluctantly accepted even by a body like the National Institute which favours Government action to influence the level of demand and is distrustful of emphasis

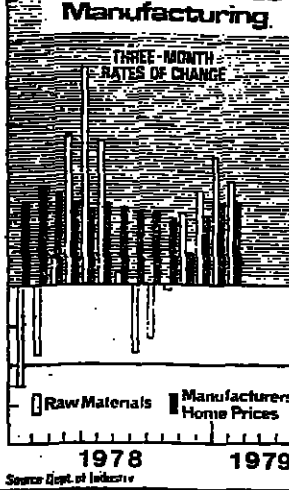
Industrial Production

Seasonally Adjusted



Wholesale Prices

Manufacturing



on controlling the money supply. Its review said that inflationary uncertainties argued that "an apparent association of the breakdown of the pay policy with inflationary action is simply not convincing as an economic strategy."

The Institute, however, rejected "a positively deflationary Budget given the likely increase in unemployment and evidence that a further rise induced by fiscal action would have no discernible effect on the level of pay settlements." Hence the Budget should be neutral.

A roughly similar view is taken by the CBI which says Mr. Healey has no scope to introduce net expansionary measures. Indeed there may be a case for contractionary measures if pay developments worsen. The CBI has, however, suggested cuts in income tax financed, if possible, by cutting public spending and, if necessary, by higher indirect taxes.

Monetarist economists would

go further and the London Business School, for instance, has urged the need for a cut of about 10m in public sector borrowing in the next financial year in order to secure effective control over the growth of the money supply and a single-figure rate of price inflation.

All these strands of opinion are reflected in the official submissions to Mr. Healey from within the Treasury. There is still a strong official strain of non-monetarist advice which now, however, concedes the influence of the financial markets.

But inflation provides the key to Mr. Healey's decisions since the Government has effectively abandoned any pretence of aiming for economic growth or employment objectives. Containing inflation is seen as the only way of creating the right conditions for growth. So with the breakdown of pay policy—first in the private sector last year and since in the public sector

—the emphasis is now overtly on monetary control and public sector borrowing.

Adherence to a money supply target is not some kind of sadistic punishment to discipline people if pay policy breaks down. Instead it represents an attempt to contain the consequences of such inflationary pressures. Thus a fairly tight monetary policy—as at present in Britain—will mainly operate in the private sector by supporting the exchange rate which in turn will both directly contain price rises and affect the ability of exporters to pass on cost increases. Indeed at present pay settlements in the private sector appear to be no higher, and possibly less on average, than last year. That is why the fears of a return to the runaway inflation of 1974-75 are misplaced.

In the public sector, the key influence on monetary control is the borrowing requirement. Last November, the Treasury forecast a figure of £8.5bn for the 1979-

1980 financial year and this was turned into a firm ceiling during January when the markets were looking for a demonstration of the Government's commitment to fight inflation.

There is plenty of room for argument about the appropriateness of this particular figure. Some economists would argue for a target as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product, rather than a cash figure. But £8.5bn, which some monetarists would regard as too high, has now become a symbol for the City of the Government's resolve to stick to its monetary guidelines.

These figures are not nearly as exact in their implications as they might appear. What matters almost as much as the target is the starting assumptions—and inflation makes all the calculations uncertain. Mr. Healey told the Commons at the end of January that the hypothetical assumption of a 15 per cent earnings rise in the current round, against the 7 per cent official guidelines, would add nearly £1.5bn onto the previous £8.5bn borrowing estimate.

Assumptions

But many economists outside Whitehall regard this as far too pessimistic since an acceleration in inflation boosts revenue almost as much as spending. The key is the balance between the public and private sectors. Each one point excess of public above private sector pay deals adds around £300m to public sector borrowing.

The exact arithmetic partly depends on what assumptions are made about the effectiveness of cash limits on spending. Mr. Joel Barnett, the Chief Secretary, announced at the end of last month that a "substantial proportion" of pay rises above 7 per cent would have to be absorbed within existing limits.

Mr. Barnett left a potential large loophole for adjustments in limits on central Government

pay deals still to be agreed. But the unofficial word from Whitehall is that a tight application of the limits could save more than £1bn. This means offsetting cuts in the volume of spending and reductions both in services and manpower.

The result of this suppression of spending—to use one Minister's euphemism—or backdoor volume cut would be to reduce the level of borrowing to be used as the basis of the Budget arithmetic—thus effectively to narrow the gap above £8.5bn. It might also avoid the need for any explicit cuts exercise with all the associated political rancour.

This suggests that the Budget will not turn out to be quite as harsh as has been suggested, though Mr. Healey may want to present a tough impression. But a gap of some kind will almost certainly exist and Mr. Healey only has a limited number of ways of bridging it. Parliamentary influences will almost certainly force him to implement the increase in personal income tax allowances in line with inflation laid down by the 1977 Finance Act.

On the face of it, there might appear to be an obvious reluctance to increase indirect taxes because of their impact on prices in an election year. But it looks as though the 12-month rate of retail price inflation will anyway be over 10 per cent by the late spring, so an extra point or two may not make much difference.

In any event, a rise in the specific duties in line with past inflation is assumed in the £8.5bn borrowing estimate: it would bring in £500m in a full year while the standardisation of VAT at 10 per cent would yield about £800m on the same basis.

The big uncertainty is whether the employers' national insurance surcharge will be raised. It is a big revenue producer: a rise in the rate from 3½ to 5 per cent would yield

£900m in a full year on current earnings. While the impact of a rise on prices and jobs would not come through for several months, probably well after an election, an increase would hit industry's profitability and liquidity at a time when they are already being squeezed tightly.

Control

But whatever combination of measures is chosen the Budget is likely to be regarded as essentially an interim statement. This is partly because there will be a suspicion that the figures do not take sufficient—or at any rate realistic—account of the various comparability studies now under way in the public sector, whose bills will fall from the summer onwards. And, of course, a Tory victory at the election would be followed by at least a major economic statement.

In many respects the Budget is of much less significance than the general commitments to monetary control, coupled with the impact of North Sea oil production, and the consequent strong exchange rate. This has in effect cushioned the impact of a continuing high level of inflation and a low level of productivity growth, with a decline in competitiveness, a deteriorating non-oil trade account is offset by an improving oil balance.

The London Business School recently forecast the combination of an 11 per cent inflation rate, a 2½ per cent rise in consumer spending and a current account surplus each year till 1982. That might sound fine, and it could be a lot worse. But North Sea oil is not a perpetual blessing and the policy changes needed to take advantage of this opportunity, rather than to dissipate it, are much more radical than we are likely to see from Mr. Healey in three weeks' time.

Letters to the Editor

British farm prices

The Managing Director, Farming

The comment by Mr. Parker, headed "Farmers' prices", in your issue of March 5 could be taken to mean a guarantee of 5 per cent devaluation of Green 1; however, he negates excuse by writing "an emerged from this Council of Ministers in Brussels with a 5 per cent increase in farm prices". How sadly

5 per cent devaluation will vary prices on British farmers' prices, averaging out the industry as a whole at a 2½ per cent benefit. Not exciting.

I wonder how many of your readers would invest in a large sum, say with an output of 10, who produced an annual return with these comments on changes? ... After 5½ per cent in 1977, 5 per cent forecast to rise by 1 per cent in 1978; for costs, rising labour, a rise of 14 per cent in 1977 is expected to be followed by one of 7 per cent in 1978. I refer, of course, to the White Paper, entitled "Annual Review of Agriculture" as presented to Parliament by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in January.

may be pertinent to remind us that the farm gate prices of the majority of products are completely and fully influenced by Government action. No one really sees that farm costs rose by 7 per cent in 1978; indeed more accurate assessment is 15 per cent.

British agricultural industry is starving of profits—vital not only increasing productivity but even for survival. A tragic situation will probably continue until we have a Minister who is not a "conventional" marketeer dedicated to the withdrawal of Britain from the EEC; this latter aim, most easily achieved by the break-up of the Common Agricultural Policy, is a deliberate policy towards agriculture is symptomatic of present attitude of Government where common sense is faced to short-term party expediency.

Tony Rosen,
1 Hatches,
1 Amesbury,
1 Wiltshire.

Vas growth checked?

The Director, National Institute of Economic Social Research

In your leading article March 7 you say that "Last year's fiscal policy was so conservative that growth was checked." Because he is rebasing of the national accounts, it is not easy to compare the out-turn with forecasts in 1970 prices. Our own estimate of actual growth of 3 in 1978 (as compared with 7) with the contribution of the sea oil vanguard at 1970 was 2.1 per cent. Last year's Financial Statement forecast was 2.0 per cent and it was 2.5 per cent in May, the Budget. So for us,

but not for the Treasury, growth was a little less than expected, although the difference of a half per cent is well within the margin of error of the estimated GDP out-turn.

Was fiscal policy so "expansive"? As you yourself argued with great force in a leading article on June 30, 1977 the proper yardstick is a cyclically corrected, or high, employment budget balance. I remember the occasion because, having been type-cast for so long as an intellectual slow-coach, I was in a position to write a letter praising you for catching up with National Institute practice. There are many ways of estimating a high employment budget: we prefer a weighted balance and believe that changes in the balance are better measures of fiscal stance than levels. Our estimate is that the 1978 budget implied an easing of the stance of fiscal policy of 0.4 per cent of high employment GDP, following three years in which the stance of fiscal policy had been tightened by altogether 4.4 per cent of GDP. Our provisional estimate of the out-turn in 1978 is that the change in the weighted budget will turn out to be even smaller—0.2 per cent. The tax cuts alone may have added between three-quarters and 1 per cent to GDP, but this was virtually wiped out when account is taken of the public expenditure side.

In short, our figuring growth was very roughly as expected. Fiscal policy was planned to be mildly expansionary and in the event produced a very small stimulus. The volume of exports grew less than we had anticipated, which we attribute in part to relatively high inflation with a stable exchange rate. Although slightly less than we had anticipated, private investment was still buoyant. Apart from private dwellings, where building societies are something of a special case, we were not aware that investment was being held back by either lack of credit or the cost of credit. The latest CBI Survey, taken at the end of 1978, shows that less than 1 per cent of firms complained of any inability to raise external finance for investment, and only 1 per cent considered themselves inhibited from investing by the cost of credit. So much for crowding-out during 1978.

G. D. N. Worswick,
NIESR,
2, Dean Trench Street,
Smith Square, SW1.

Capital spending

From Mr. L. Filleul

Sir,—I agree with Mr. F. M. Redington (March 7) on the confusion caused by using the word "investment" in two quite different senses. I also agree that the word should retain its generally understood meaning as "net acquisition of financial assets." For "investment" in the real capital goods, what is wrong with the well understood expression "capital expenditure"?

L. T. L. Filleul,
9, Southlands,
Yeovil, Somerset.

Invest and pricipate

From Mr. J. Gibb

Sir,—I think Mr. Redington,

March 7, makes a good point about the need for a new word to describe industry's conversion of cash into fixed assets and stock. It is time the seed corn was protected in the vernacular.

Instead of a new word, however, what about returning to the old concept of principle (root of) and principal (money). Thus the conversion of cash into fixed assets would become participation. The verb—to participate—would be the principium (Latin—beginning, origin). Surely an apt description of the investment of fixed capital.

Ian G. Gibb,
Grant Gibb and Co.,
North Lavenham,
Haverstock Road,
Winchester.

Paying for coal

From Miss M. Watchorn

Sir,—It is obvious that coal in this country has to be subsidised by the taxpayer in one way or another. So I think it should be looked at from the countrywide angle.

It might be cheaper, in money terms, to get coal from Belvoir with its rich seams rather than continue with the older pits in, for example, north Nottingham and Wales. It would certainly cause much damage and disturbance to land presently used to produce food and the setting-up costs would be very great.

I suggest that it would be cheaper to the taxpayer, the miners and the environment to subsidise directly those existing pits which are uneconomic in producing costs but still hold large amounts of winnable good coal.

The terrible thing about the Labour "energy" policy is its concentration, both in coal and particularly—North Sea oil, on converting the capital assets of our country into income to be consumed as rapidly as possible.

There are—we hope—generations to follow us. They will be faced with very poor energy resources if this profligate exploitation of our natural resources continues.

(Miss) M. Watchorn,
58, Priory Road,
West Bridgford, Nottingham.

Not wanted at Maplin ...

From the Chairman, Defenders of Essex

Sir,—So the wheel is coming full circle and the old problem of where to site a third London Airport is with us again. When the old ground is gone over once again it is to be hoped that the old absurdities will be cast aside and, for this, the final time, the approach will be rational and not over-political. The last exercise was dominated, in its middle stages, by questions of national pride, not connected with an airport.

No better step could be taken than to go back to the Roskill Commission, for that inquiry explored, honestly and exhaustively, the problems which still confront us. Certainly, there would be no hope of a workable solution to the problem if anything resembling the current half-baked plans of Greater London Council for a Maplin Airport "on the cheap" were even considered.

Although Maplin is likely to figure on the coming short-list of sites it is most unlikely that it will be a serious contender. The reasons for this are obvious. The site is still valid. Michael Donnan (March 3) places too much importance on the effects of the oil crisis on the decision to abandon Maplin. The necessary questions had already been asked, and the vital answer given in Parliament which would have brought about its end before that crisis was felt. Massive cost, operational costs above the tolerable distance from London and its other markets, environmental and planning dangers, to quote but a few of its defects, had caused the Commons to demand a review of the project in July 1973, which effectively ensured its end in June 1974. Those considerations still apply. So it is with confidence that the latest review is awaited.

But this time the decision must be final. Does the rest of the country really appreciate the concern, even fear, which a threat of this nature has on the areas threatened? It can be expressed in material terms as well, in public projects delayed, roads and schools left unbuilt, in property values depressed. It is high time that the final decision was taken, and we in south-east Essex extend our sympathy to the area which, finally, will receive this new (or expanded) airport. We are sure that it cannot, and will not, be Maplin.

Derrick Wood (Councillor),
The Chase,
Paglesham E. End,
Rochford, Essex.

... or Stansted

From Mr. J. Lukies

Sir,—Michael Donnan's article (March 3) on the need for and siting of a third London Airport makes interesting reading. But there are certain matters regarding the choice of site that ought to be stressed and made abundantly clear.

The Government's choice of Stansted was the subject of an inquiry in 1965 which lasted 81 days. The inspector, appointed by the Government, listened to arguments on matters relating not only to environment but on every aspect of airport requirements; he and his vastly experienced technical assessor, Mr. Branker, rejected the site as "... a calamity."

The Roskill Commission, set up in 1970, was said by the Government to be composed of the greatest experts in all fields of airport technology—they listened to scores of expert witnesses and many sites were subjected to detailed investigation. All the alleged "advantages" canvassed on behalf of Stansted were advanced there, including availability of the M11, planned long before the airport inquiries and intended to cope with the increased traffic of the 1990s.

Roskill named not one site, as Michael Donnan suggests, but a short list from which the Government could make its choice—Stansted did not appear on that list.

Has not enough research taken place and expense been incurred to show that wherever and whenever a site is chosen for London's third airport it should not be Stansted?

J. M. Lukies,
Cammas Hall,
Hatchfield Broad Oak,
Bishop's Stortford, Herts.

Today's Events

GENERAL
UK: Gas industry pay talks resume.
Steel manual workers pay talks resume.
Scottish National Union of Mineworkers meet in Edinburgh to discuss pay offer.
Dairy Trade Federation statement on EEC milk price proposals.
Sir Robert Mark launches Help the Homeless appeal.
Insolvency Law Review Committee meets at Department of Trade.
International Food Exhibition opens at Olympia (until March 18).
Joint meeting and trade exhibition of Royal College of Surgeons and American College of Surgeons, at Royal Festival Hall (until March 14).
Laboratory, Diagnostic and Medical Instrumentation Exhibition opens, National Exhibition Centre.
Overseas: European Council meets in Paris for two days.
European Parliament starts five-day meeting in Strasbourg.
European Central Bankers meet in Basle for two days.
OFFICIAL STATISTICS
Department of Trade publishes

February provisional retail sales figures.
PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS
House of Commons: Second readings of Local Government Grants (Ethnic Groups) Bill and of Local Government Finance Bill.
House of Lords: British Railways (Selby) Bill, second reading. National Heritage Fund Bill, report. Hovercraft (Civil Liability) Order. European Communities (Definition of Treaty) Order.
Select Committees: Public Accounts. Subject: Appropriation accounts. Witnesses: Dept. of Transport. Room 18, 5.45 pm.
Expenditure, Education, Arts and Home Office Sub-committee. Subject: Women and penal system. Witnesses: Association of Chief Police Officers, Police Federation. Room 13, 4.15 pm.

COMPANY RESULTS
Final dividends: Dixons, Pentos, Rolls-Royce Motors Holdings. Interim dividends: British Car Auction Group, Parker Timber Group, Stothert and Pitt. Interim figures: Glendevon Investment Trust, Nelson David.
COMPANY MEETINGS
See Financial Diary on page 7.

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Gilgate meeting on April 27—accounts almost complete

Gilgate Holdings, the controversial industrial property group which is the subject of a Department of Trade investigation, has reconvened its extraordinary general meeting.

The meeting was adjourned on December 15 until March 30 at the latest. That meeting was considering important transactions since the last published accounts, which were for the year ending June 1976.

It was adjourned so that up-to-date information could be prepared.

Gilgate said yesterday that accounts for the financial year ending June 30, 1977, "are almost complete," and will be dispatched in time for the annual general meeting which will be convened for April 27.

Teh group is proposing that the AGM on March 30 should be adjourned further until April 27 so that the business of the AGM and ECM can be dealt with at the same time.

Gilgate's last accounts for 1976-78 were finally published in late November. They received a four-page auditors' report containing eight significant qualifications. In particular, Deloitte Haskins and Sells, the auditors, who did not seek re-election, said that the company had not kept proper accounting records of transactions during the year.

Fife Forge falls in second half

A second half fall from £206,149 to £130,345 left taxable profits of Fife Forge, large master and engineer, behind at £321,545 for the 1978 year against a previous £401,598. Turnover was, however, well up from £3,82m to £7,23m.

The directors state that the reduction in profit has been caused by the severe recession in the world wide shipbuilding industry and by unexpected order cancellations.

Other companies in the group, despite difficult trading conditions, have contributed satisfactorily to profit, they add.

A final dividend of 1.694p (1.479p) net per 35p share lifts the total to 2.494p for the year compared with 2.234p.

The attributable balance came out at £178,374 (£230,501) after tax £55,177 (£171,097) and an extraordinary debit of £37,994.

BOARD MEETINGS

The following companies have notified dates of Board meetings to the Stock Exchange. Such meetings are usually held for the purpose of considering dividends. Official indications are not available as to whether dividends are interim or final and the sub-divisions shown below are based mainly on last year's timetable.

TODAY	
Interim—British Car Auction, Nelson David, Parker Timber, Henson Tin	Mar. 21
Final—Dixor, Pentos, Rolls-Royce Motors	Mar. 22
FUTURE DATES	
Interim—Armstrong Equipment	Mar. 21
Final—Hawthorneston	Mar. 22
Interim—Hawthorneston	Mar. 23
Final—London and Strathclyde Trust	Mar. 24
Interim—Medminster	Mar. 25
Final—BICS	Mar. 29
Final—BL	Mar. 30
Final—Barton Clark	Mar. 31
Final—Boddingtons Breweries	Mar. 31
Final—Collins (William)	Mar. 31
Final—Hama Counties Newspapers	Mar. 31
Final—Investment Distillers	Mar. 31
Final—Jones (A. J.) and Shipman	Mar. 31
Final—Marsay Docks and Harbour	Mar. 31
Final—Newey	Mar. 31
Final—Rayson P.B.W.S.	Mar. 31
Final—Villius Faber	Mar. 31

Strike takes toll of Sidlaw

Sir John Carmichael, chairman of Sidlaw Industries, warned members at the AGM that prospects for the first half of the current year were not good. Problems created by the road haulage strike had seriously affected the group's three divisions in January and early February, with the textile division suffering most. In that period, losses substantially reduced profits made in the first three months.

Some recovery was now evident, but the group's textile markets had not yet re-established earlier levels of demand, and production remained curtailed in some sections.

FT Share Information

The following security has been added to the Share Information Service appearing in the Financial Times:—

Rensher (Furniture Traders) "A" (Section: Industrials).

Macpherson successful rights issue

The recent rights issue by the Donald Macpherson Group resulted in 94 per cent of the shares being taken up with the balance sold immediately within the market. Mr. R. Chester, the chairman tells shareholders.

This excellent result indicates the support and confidence which the group's institutional and private shareholders have in its future prospects, Mr. Chester says.

The one-for-four issue, announced with the 1977-78 results in February, was proposed to raise £2.3m for planned expansion and redevelopment throughout the group.

For the year ended October 29, 1978, pre-tax profits rose from £3.04m to £4.03m on sales of £66.5m against £55.73m.

The accounts show profits on a CCA basis reduced to £3.08m after adjustments for depreciation, £386,000, cost of sales, £236,000 and gearing, £220,000.

Working capital ratio of current assets to current liabilities remained unchanged at 1.8:1 which the chairman considers satisfactory. There were some exceptional purchases of raw materials towards the year end in anticipation of increased prices. In the event, fears that raw material prices were about to take off again have proved to be fully justified.

Total borrowings amount to £8.8m and give a gearing ratio of 30.3 per cent (adjusted—49.3 per cent). On a fully taxed basis, the ratio would be 43.9 per cent (39.6 per cent).

Compared with last year's outflow of £918,000, there was a net inflow of funds during the year of £608,000, "a most satisfactory turnaround," says Mr. Chester.

Return on capital employed improved from 18.1 per cent to 20 per cent but this is still regarded as inadequate given current and anticipated rates of inflation.

Activities of the group include paint making, hardware manufacturing and operation of D-I-Y stores. Meeting, Winchester House, EC, April 4 at noon.



Mr. David Wickens, chairman of the British Car Auctions Group, photographed at a Frimley auction. The company is due to announce interim results today.

Britannic Assurance higher bonus rates

HIGHER RATES of reversionary and terminal bonus have been declared by the Britannic Assurance Company on its ordinary branch with-profit contracts. The reversionary bonus rate for 1978 on life policies is set at 4.50 per cent of the sum assured from £4.40 per cent in 1977. The rate of deferred annuities is improved to 15.20 per cent of the basic benefit from 15 per cent previously.

The scale of terminal bonuses, paid on death or maturity has also been improved ranging from 15 per cent to 80 per cent for each year's premium paid before 1974. The premium used is the actual premium for whole life contracts and a notional value on endowments ascertained by dividing the maturity sum by the term of the contract. The previous scale ranged from 10 per cent to 65 per cent.

The terminal bonus on deferred annuities is 30 per cent of the basic benefit and accrued bonuses, increasing by 1 per cent for each year's premium paid before 1974 up to maximum payment of 45 per cent. Previously the rate was a flat 30 per cent.

Industrial branch policies will receive a total bonus of £3.60 per cent—a normal payment of £3.30 per cent plus a special bonus of 30p per cent. A terminal bonus of 15 per cent of the sum assured is paid on policies in force not less than 15 years.

PERCY LANE
Percy Lane Group has formed a new subsidiary called Percy Lane (Home Improvements).

The new company will carry on the business of the supply and installation of replacement domestic aluminium windows, double glazing, patio doors and solar energy systems designed and manufactured by group companies.

Mr. E. J. Aaronson, chairman of GRA Property Trust says that it is in the shareholders' best interests that further progress should be made in repaying unsecured creditors out of the trading cash flow and from any surpluses which can be obtained from the sale of the remaining development properties and other free assets, before any steps are taken to bring the scheme of arrangement to an end.

The directors' objectives are that the company should meet its liabilities in full, while retaining control, as far as may be possible, and in the best interests of shareholders, of the greyhound racing operations.

However, the directors state: Substantial amounts of secured debt would have to be repaid out of the proceeds of sale of any assets before any funds became available to unsecured creditors. In many instances these sales would also create substantial capital gains tax liabilities which would have to be met before further payments could be made.

Also, the reduction in group profits from the sale of individual assets would exceed any saving of interest from the estimated proceeds of sale. In addition upon termination of the scheme, the secured lenders would be entitled to call for immediate repayment of their outstanding debts and Stock Conversion and Investment Trust could accelerate completion of the purchase from GRA of the White City Stadium.

Meeting, White City Stadium, Wood Lane, W, March 30 at 11 am.

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Wed.	12.832	13.371
Thurs.	12.910	13.355
Fri./Sun.	12.783	13.236

Distribution of Investments as at 31st December 1978.

	United Kingdom & Commonwealth (excl. Canada)	North America	Other Countries
	64.9%	26.1%	9.0%

Secretary and Manager—
INVESTMENT TRUST SERVICES LTD., 11, Wallbrook, London, EC4N 8ED

Croda expands in Australia with U.S.\$2.25m purchase

Croda Australia, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Croda International, has purchased from Emery Industries Incorporated, Jordan Chemicals of New South Wales, Emery is a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Distillers and Chemical of the U.S. and the consideration is U.S.\$2.25m, which represents less than 5 per cent of Croda International's assets.

Operating throughout Australia and New Zealand, Croda Australia's activities are centred around the chemical, protective coatings and printing ink industries.

Jordan is a major producer of resins within Australia and also has interests in New Zealand.

ALCAN
Alcan's German subsidiary, Alcan Aluminiumwerke, acquired the assets of the aluminium smelter in Ludwigshafen (formerly owned by Gebr. Glinn).

Wm. Mowat and Sons—The company has received from Harvard Secs. notice that on March 2, 1979 it purchased as principal 200,000 of the 511,870 ordinary shares of Mowat sold by fourth on that day. Harvard's purchase amounted to 20 per cent of the issued share capital of Mowat.

Harvard has further notified Mowat that as a result of disposals to private investment clients, its holding, as principal amounts to less than 5 per cent of the issued share capital of Mowat. Ag at noon on March 8, Harvard held 37,500 Mowat shares (3.75 per cent).

Mercury Securities—O. M. Lewisohn, director, bought 10,000 shares at 125p on February 14 and 12,143 at 125p on February 20, 1979.

Keala Selangor Rubber Company—Harrisons and Crossfield on March 2 bought 8,706 shares increasing interest to 423,958 shares (55.25 per cent).

Lonsdale Universal—Following directors yesterday exercised options as follows:—N. G. Ramseyer 10,000 shares; A. K. W. Edwards 10,000; D. F. Wood 30,000; R. N. Jones 20,000 and G. E. Clarke 20,000.

for DM£1.5m and plans to make further investments to modernise the plant and equipment.

BRIGHT/ASH

Writing to his shareholders in the formal offer document from the John Bright Group, the chairman of 34 companies states that profitability in the second half of the year to end March is expected to be somewhat lower than the first but the board forecasts pre-tax profits of not less than £315,000 for the year as a whole. The previous peak was achieved in 1975-76 when profits reached £345,000. Bright's agreed 110p per share cash offer values Ash at £380,000.

ASSOCIATED BISCUITS
Associated Biscuits of Canada, a subsidiary of Associated Biscuits International of Britain, has

SMITH COMPLETES
W. H. Smith and Son (Holdings) has completed the purchase of LPC Homecentres together with nine related properties. Smith has paid LPC £12m cash.

McLeod Russell and Co.—J. M. Guthrie and J. Guthrie, as trustees, have acquired beneficial interest in 22,000 shares on February 23.

Blackwood Hodge—The 34th per cent of the share capital previously held by J. H. Robertson and other is now held by Sir John J. Campbell and other. This arises from a change of trustees only.

Country and New Town Properties—G. M. Newton, chairman, recently sold 20,000 shares at 40p and 80,000 at 40p for personal reasons. The Blundells Family Fund, of which G. M. Newton and R. C. Wiles are trustees, has paid £80,770 7 per cent conversion loan stock at £11 per cent. This is as a result of the winding-up of the fund and the disposal of its investments.

SHARE STAKES
15, increasing beneficial interest to 305,000 shares.

Heywood Williams—British Aluminium Company has converted 576,113 unsecured loan stock which gives BA total of 678,465 ordinary shares (10.35 per cent). On assumption that full conversion was to take place by all loan stockholders, BA's interest would drop to 8.49 per cent.

Keala Selangor Rubber Company—Harrisons and Crossfield on March 2 bought 8,706 shares increasing interest to 423,958 shares (55.25 per cent).

Lonsdale Universal—Following directors yesterday exercised options as follows:—N. G. Ramseyer 10,000 shares; A. K. W. Edwards 10,000; D. F. Wood 30,000; R. N. Jones 20,000 and G. E. Clarke 20,000.

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1976	36,305,112	198	4.93	4.65	
1977	39,583,373	219	5.59	5.30	
1978	42,524,015	239	6.71	6.30	

Distribution of Investments as at 31st December 1978.

United Kingdom & Commonwealth (excl. Canada)	64.9%
North America	26.1%
Other Countries	9.0%

Secretary and Manager—
INVESTMENT TRUST SERVICES LTD., 11, Wallbrook, London, EC4N 8ED

LOCAL AUTHORITY BOND TABLE

Authority (telephone number in parentheses)	Annual interest gross	pay-able	Minimum sum	Life of bond
East Lindsey (0507 5801)	12½	1-year	250	5-10
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Reading (0734 582325)	14½	maturity	1,000	6-7
Redbridge (01-478 3020)	12½	1-year	200	4-5
Sefton (051 922 4040)	13	1-year	2,000	5-7

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Interest %	11½	11½	12½	12½	12½	12½	12½	12½

Deposits to and further information from The Chief Cashier, Finance for Industry Limited, 91 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8XP (01-928 7522, Ext. 177). Cheques payable to "Bank of England, a/c FFI." FFI is the holding company for ICFC and FCI.



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CTI-Dominion Title Insurance Company, a subsidiary of the Chicago Title Insurance Company, which specialises in title insurance in the U.S., has been established here since May 1973. It believes that it is better for the house-purchaser to have a title insurance of the kind widely sold in the U.S., where, of course different house-purchase conveyancing rules apply, than to have to rely on making a professional negligence claim against the solicitor if the purchaser has failed to do his job.

CTI-Dominion therefore offering its "House-ownership guarantee", which it hopes to sell to house-buyers through the agency of solicitors engaged in conveyancing.

In principle, in order to make a successful claim against insurers, the house-purchaser must show that he has suffered loss because his title is not as stated, he will not have to prove that this is due to someone's negligence.

The conveyancing solicitor who has done the work and has sold the cover is also protected, as will be the Law Society's professional negligence insurers, because the company will waive its right to recover from the solicitor who has been negligently breached his underlying agreement with the company.

Conveyancing is a complicated legal matter but some simple—

Special adviser to EEC president

Dr. Richard Mayne, for the past six years head of the EEC COMMISSION's offices in the UK, has been appointed special adviser to the President of the Commission from June. His first assignment will be to examine and make recommendations on the public presentation of the Commission's policies.

Dr. Mayne joined the staff of the Commission from June. His first assignment will be to examine and make recommendations on the public presentation of the Commission's policies. Dr. Mayne joined the staff of the Commission from June. His first assignment will be to examine and make recommendations on the public presentation of the Commission's policies.

Mr. T. J. Procter has been appointed a director and Mr. S. Balas has been appointed secretary of DELTECHNE HOLDINGS, Mr. P. W. Cranfield having resigned from both positions to take up an appointment elsewhere.

Mr. Richard Alston, an associate director of INTCO, a management consultants, has been made director of management development and training services, a new appointment.

Mr. John Burgess has joined ITC as marketing and sales director of the division dealing with food processors. He was previously marketing director of Sunbeam Electric. ITC is UK agent for the Magimix and the Robot-Chef, made in France by Robot-Chef.

Mr. Michael Altermatt, previously with Tarnac International, has joined N. M. Rothschild and Sons and will be appointed a director of N. M. Rothschild and Sons. He will be responsible for the development of projects and capital goods schemes in South-East Asia.

Mr. Jim Cookson is to resign his directorship of JAMES WILSON AND PARTNERS and LEAKE AND CARNEY in the early summer, when he will take up a fresh appointment in the property field.

Mr. David M. Garner has resigned from the Board of BRITISH BENZOL CARBON, leaving due to heavy business commitments.

Mr. Kenneth Miles, has been appointed director of the INCORPORATED SOCIETY OF BRITISH ADVERTISERS (ISBA), in succession to Mr. M. M. Lamm, from April 30. Mr. Miles is currently head of marketing at the Central Council for Agriculture.

Indices

NEW YORK —DOW JONES

Mar. 9	Mar. 8	Mar. 7	Mar. 6	Mar. 5	Mar. 4	Mar. 3	Mar. 2	Mar. 1	1978-79	Since Comp'n
Mar. 9	Mar. 8	Mar. 7	Mar. 6	Mar. 5	Mar. 4	Mar. 3	Mar. 2	Mar. 1	High	Low
Ind. Div. Yield	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25
Transport	214.81	215.22	211.72	203.37	211.04	208.56	207.46	204.56	207.46	204.56
Utilities	104.18	104.06	103.56	103.48	103.28	103.18	103.08	102.98	103.08	102.98
Trading vol.	35,590	32,650	29,290	24,500	25,990	25,190	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500

Day's high 851.44 low 840.00

STANDARD AND POORS

Mar. 9	Mar. 8	Mar. 7	Mar. 6	Mar. 5	Mar. 4	Mar. 3	Mar. 2	Mar. 1	1978-79	Since Comp'n
Mar. 9	Mar. 8	Mar. 7	Mar. 6	Mar. 5	Mar. 4	Mar. 3	Mar. 2	Mar. 1	High	Low
Ind. Div. Yield	5.10	5.10	5.10	5.10	5.10	5.10	5.10	5.10	5.10	5.10
Composite	95.54	95.56	95.44	95.37	95.36	95.32	95.28	95.24	95.28	95.24
Ind. Div. Yield	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17
Long Gov. Bond Yield	9.01	9.01	9.01	9.01	9.01	9.01	9.01	9.01	9.01	9.01

EUROPE

AMSTERDAM

Mar. 9	Price	+ or -	Div. Yield
Mar. 9	Price	+ or -	Div. Yield
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7

BRUSSELS/LUXEMBOURG

Mar. 9	Price	+ or -	Div. Yield
Mar. 9	Price	+ or -	Div. Yield
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7

COPENHAGEN

Mar. 9	Price	+ or -	Div. Yield
Mar. 9	Price	+ or -	Div. Yield
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7

VIENNA

Mar. 9	Price	+ or -	Div. Yield
Mar. 9	Price	+ or -	Div. Yield
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7

CANADA

Mar. 9	Price	+ or -	Div. Yield
Mar. 9	Price	+ or -	Div. Yield
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7

MILAN

Mar. 9	Price	+ or -	Div. Yield
Mar. 9	Price	+ or -	Div. Yield
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7

PARIS

Mar. 9	Price	+ or -	Div. Yield
Mar. 9	Price	+ or -	Div. Yield
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7
Alcoa (F.20)	122.6	+0.1	3.7

N.Y.S.E. ALL COMMON

Mar. 9	Mar. 8	Mar. 7	Mar. 6	Mar. 5	Mar. 4	Mar. 3	Mar. 2	Mar. 1	1978-79	Since Comp'n
Mar. 9	Mar. 8	Mar. 7	Mar. 6	Mar. 5	Mar. 4	Mar. 3	Mar. 2	Mar. 1	High	Low
Ind. Div. Yield	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25
Transport	214.81	215.22	211.72	203.37	211.04	208.56	207.46	204.56	207.46	204.56
Utilities	104.18	104.06	103.56	103.48	103.28	103.18	103.08	102.98	103.08	102.98
Trading vol.	35,590	32,650	29,290	24,500	25,990	25,190	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500

MONTECARLO

Mar. 9	Mar. 8	Mar. 7	Mar. 6	Mar. 5	Mar. 4	Mar. 3	Mar. 2	Mar. 1	1978-79	Since Comp'n
Mar. 9	Mar. 8	Mar. 7	Mar. 6	Mar. 5	Mar. 4	Mar. 3	Mar. 2	Mar. 1	High	Low
Ind. Div. Yield	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25
Transport	214.81	215.22	211.72	203.37	211.04	208.56	207.46	204.56	207.46	204.56
Utilities	104.18	104.06	103.56	103.48	103.28	103.18	103.08	102.98	103.08	102.98
Trading vol.	35,590	32,650	29,290	24,500	25,990	25,190	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500

JOHANNESBURG

Mar. 9	Mar. 8	Mar. 7	Mar. 6	Mar. 5	Mar. 4	Mar. 3	Mar. 2	Mar. 1	1978-79	Since Comp'n
Mar. 9	Mar. 8	Mar. 7	Mar. 6	Mar. 5	Mar. 4	Mar. 3	Mar. 2	Mar. 1	High	Low
Ind. Div. Yield	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25
Transport	214.81	215.22	211.72	203.37	211.04	208.56	207.46	204.56	207.46	204.56
Utilities	104.18	104.06	103.56	103.48	103.28	103.18	103.08	102.98	103.08	102.98
Trading vol.	35,590	32,650	29,290	24,500	25,990	25,190	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500

SPAIN

Mar. 9	Mar. 8	Mar. 7	Mar. 6	Mar. 5	Mar. 4	Mar. 3	Mar. 2	Mar. 1	1978-79	Since Comp'n
Mar. 9	Mar. 8	Mar. 7	Mar. 6	Mar. 5	Mar. 4	Mar. 3	Mar. 2	Mar. 1	High	Low
Ind. Div. Yield	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25
Transport	214.81	215.22	211.72	203.37	211.04	208.56	207.46	204.56	207.46	204.56
Utilities	104.18	104.06	103.56	103.48	103.28	103.18	103.08	102.98	103.08	102.98
Trading vol.	35,590	32,650	29,290	24,500	25,990	25,190	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500

STOCKHOLM

Mar. 9	Mar. 8	Mar. 7	Mar. 6	Mar. 5	Mar. 4	Mar. 3	Mar. 2	Mar. 1	1978-79	Since Comp'n
Mar. 9	Mar. 8	Mar. 7	Mar. 6	Mar. 5	Mar. 4	Mar. 3	Mar. 2	Mar. 1	High	Low
Ind. Div. Yield	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25
Transport	214.81	215.22	211.72	203.37	211.04	208.56	207.46	204.56	207.46	204.56
Utilities	104.18	104.06	103.56	103.48	103.28	103.18	103.08	102.98	103.08	102.98
Trading vol.	35,590	32,650	29,290	24,500	25,990	25,190	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500

GERMANY

Mar. 9	Mar. 8	Mar. 7	Mar. 6	Mar. 5	Mar. 4	Mar. 3	Mar. 2	Mar. 1	1978-79	Since Comp'n
Mar. 9	Mar. 8	Mar. 7	Mar. 6	Mar. 5	Mar. 4	Mar. 3	Mar. 2	Mar. 1	High	Low
Ind. Div. Yield	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25
Transport	214.81	215.22	211.72	203.37	211.04	208.56	207.46	204.56	207.46	204.56
Utilities	104.18	104.06	103.56	103.48	103.28	103.18	103.08	102.98	103.08	102.98
Trading vol.	35,590	32,650	29,290	24,500	25,990	25,190	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500

SWITZERLAND

Mar. 9	Mar. 8	Mar. 7	Mar. 6	Mar. 5	Mar. 4	Mar. 3	Mar. 2	Mar. 1	1978-79	Since Comp'n
Mar. 9	Mar. 8	Mar. 7	Mar. 6	Mar. 5	Mar. 4	Mar. 3	Mar. 2	Mar. 1	High	Low
Ind. Div. Yield	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25
Transport	214.81	215.22	211.72	203.37	211.04	208.56	207.46	204.56	207.46	204.56
Utilities	104.18	104.06	103.56	103.48	103.28	103.18	103.08	102.98	103.08	102.98
Trading vol.	35,590	32,650	29,290	24,500	25,990	25,190	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500

AUSTRALIA

Mar. 9	Mar. 8	Mar. 7	Mar. 6	Mar. 5	Mar. 4	Mar. 3	Mar. 2	Mar. 1	1978-79	Since Comp'n
Mar. 9	Mar. 8	Mar. 7	Mar. 6	Mar. 5	Mar. 4	Mar. 3	Mar. 2	Mar. 1	High	Low
Ind. Div. Yield	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25
Transport	214.81	215.22	211.72	203.37	211.04	208.56	207.46	204.56	207.46	204.56
Utilities	104.18	104.06	103.56	103.48	103.28	103.18	103.08	102.98	103.08	102.98
Trading vol.	35,590	32,650	29,290	24,500	25,990	25,190	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500

JOHANNESBURG

150	+1.0	98.12	2.6																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												</
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INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKETS

BY FRANCIS GHILES

INTERNATIONAL BONDS

Second thoughts on Swiss francs

STERLING bonds staged sharp price increases in early trading last week, on the back of a strong rally in the London market. The Euro-sterling market was a firmer throughout the week with some dealers reporting sizeable institutional orders.

Recent rumours of new issues in the sterling market were dismissed. The market for sterling bonds did not move. In the dollar market, the floating rate note was announced. The market for the United States Bank carries an interest rate of 1 per cent over month LIBOR.

It is the second time in three weeks that Credit First Bank has tied in the shorter term interest rate, in the case of the bank's new issue.

The issue more of a market instrument and seems to meet with investor approval despite the continued stability of the dollar and easing of short term rates.

Two factors, to which the added the light, calen-

dar of new dollar issues, negligible growth in the U.S. money supply and the low inventories of most major trading houses, all helped to push up the prices of recent straight issues, gently but continuously, throughout the week.

The market seems prepared for a new straight issue but not for a series and many dealers insist that a flood of new issues would be impossible to absorb.

The only factor which affected prices adversely last week was the disturbing increase in U.S. wholesale prices in January, which if repeated would produce an annual inflation rate of 19 per cent. Were this to be the case, bond yields of 10 per cent and more would look less of a bargain to the investor than they now do.

In the sterling sector the prices of seasoned issues moved up by three points during the week and the recent issue for FFI was quoted well above par throughout.

Despite rumours, there was no sign of a new borrower though names of supranational institutions were constantly conjured with UK corporate treasurers.

who may be contemplating sterling issues are said by a number of bankers to be waiting for coupons to come down.

The strength of sterling was another factor which explains the strong market performance of sterling bonds. Here the news, both from Europe and the oil producers could only be construed as good.

Prices fell quite sharply on longer dated Swiss franc bonds last week. More than the high volume of new paper on offer, the feeling among investors that coupons will soon rise is leading to a marked reluctance on the part of many to commit themselves for more than 10 years.

The sharpest monthly rise, 1.1 per cent in Swiss consumer prices since 1974 was posted for February. Two-thirds of this increase was accounted for by the rise in price of petroleum products. With one oil producing country after another last week announcing further increases for the next quarter, investors have good reason to think that domestic Swiss interest rates will rise soon and hence the coupons on foreign bonds.

The deterioration in the market also led the French state railways, SNCF, to postpone its planned SWFR 100m issue which, originally, was to have been offered from March 7 to 13.

The Deutsche-Mark market ended the week with a far happier tone than it started. Turn-

over remained fairly small but prices of recent issues rose by about half a point on the week. The new issue for Norway was well received and the absence of any other issues currently on offer helped stabilise the market further.

No new issues are scheduled in the new issue calendar until the end of the week but one for an international organisation, which does not need to be in the calendar technically, cannot be ruled out if the market continues in its current shape.

A KD5m issue is being arranged for a Finnish borrower by Kuwait Investment Company. Prices in the KD secondary market fell again last week by up to half a point on some recent issues. Trading volume was higher also.

The wild gyrations of shorter-term interest rates with the one-month rate reaching 9 per cent on Wednesday to fall back to 8 per cent that very afternoon was felt by dealers to be an unhealthy state of affairs. Until such time as short-term rates stabilise, albeit at higher levels than before, uncertainty will remain the keynote.

The wild gyrations of shorter-term interest rates with the one-month rate reaching 9 per cent on Wednesday to fall back to 8 per cent that very afternoon was felt by dealers to be an unhealthy state of affairs. Until such time as short-term rates stabilise, albeit at higher levels than before, uncertainty will remain the keynote.

CURRENT INTERNATIONAL BOND ISSUES

Borrowers	Amount m.	Maturity	Av. life years	Coupon %	Price	Lead manager	Offer yield %
U.S. DOLLARS							
Banco Urquijo	30	1986	7	6 1/2	100	Société Générale	6.09%
Chubb & Co.	100	1984	7 1/2	6 1/2	100	Crédit Suisse First Boston	6.09%
Thailand	30	1984	5	7 1/2	100	Man. Hanover Ltd., BNP	7.12%
Banco de la Nación	50	1986	7	7 1/2	100	Salomon Bros	7.12%
IBIF	50	1986	5.08	9 1/2	99 1/2	Is. Ban. San Paolo di Torino	9.57%
IBIF	30	1991	9.03	9 1/2	99 1/2	Is. Ban. San Paolo di Torino	9.79%
United Overseas Bank	25	1989	10	6 1/2	100	Crédit Suisse First Boston	6.09%
IBIF	20	1994	9	7 1/2	100	Dillon Read Overseas	7.12%
IBIF	20	1994	9	7 1/2	100	IBJ Int.	7.12%
D-MARKS							
Banco Mac. de	100	1986	7	7 1/2	99	WestLB	7.44%
Desarrollo	30	1987	—	5	100	Bayerische Vereinsbank	5.0
Chubb & Co.	30	1985	—	7 1/2	100	WestLB	7.25%
Autopistas Con.	200	1984	5	6 1/2	100 1/2	Deutsche Bank	6.13%
SWISS FRANC							
Canada	300	1989	n.a.	3 1/2	99 1/2	UBS	3.72%
City of Oslo	75	1991	n.a.	3 1/2	99	Handelsbank	3.66%
City of Oslo	75	1986	n.a.	3 1/2	100	Crédit Suisse	3.75%
STERLING							
IBIF	15	1991	9	13	100	S.G. Warburg	13.00%
YEN							
Malaysia	15bn	1989	9	7 1/2	99 1/2	Nomura	n.a.
LUXEMBOURG FRANC							
Ennia	125	1982	3	8 1/2	100	Kreditbank Luxem.	8.12%
Ennia	125	1984	5	8 1/2	100	Kreditbank Luxem.	8.37%
Ennia	500	1987	8	8	100	Banque Int. à Luxem.	8.0
KUWAITI DINARS							
Korea Dev. Bank	12	1984-89	—	7 1/2	99 1/2	Nat. Bank of Kuwait	7.91
Finland Mortgage Banks	5	1989	—	7 1/2	—	Merrill Lynch Int.	7.91
Finland Mortgage Banks	5	1989	—	7 1/2	—	KIC	—
SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHTS							
Nordic Inv. Bank	20	1984	5	9	100	S.G. Warburg	9.00
UNITS OF ACCOUNT							
SOFT (STET)	40	1989	8	8 1/2	—	Kreditbank NY	—

* Not yet priced. † Final terms. ‡ Placement. § Floating rate note. ¶ Minimum. †† Registered with U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. ‡ Purchase Fund. § Convertible. ¶ Yield calculated on AIBD basis.

T-EDGED STOCKS

BY PETER RIDDELL

A foreign perspective of gilts

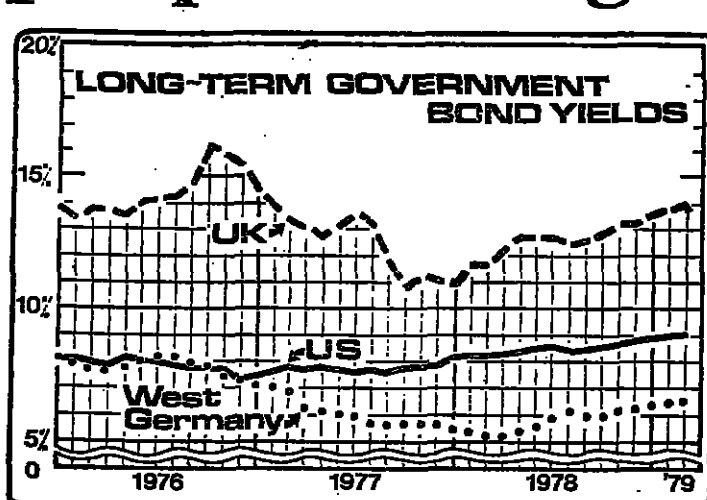
S of British Government have risen by more than 20 per cent in the last month. Long-term bond yields have fallen by 2 points to less than 10 per cent. An important part of the rally has been played by the investors. To quote the London Observer, "The market has been seen for the first time in nearly 18 months, purchases so far may not be large as suggested by rumours of sizeable German and even American interest."

This is very different from last year when overseas investors made net sales of gilt stock of over £200m. In 1977, British gilts were sold to the world but also attracted interest from the foreign market, and among investors.

Even as recently as the end of last year many forecasters envisaged a gentle decline in the sterling exchange rate this year in response to accelerating inflation. This appeared to be borne out by developments in January when there were widespread industrial disputes and a 1 per cent fall in the trade-weighted index of sterling's value, as calculated by the Bank of England. But since then the index has risen by 2.5 per cent and sterling has been at its highest level against other major currencies for a year.

The turnaround can largely be explained by oil—and in particular by rising North Sea oil production which will make the UK nearly 90 per cent self-sufficient this year. Thus the UK is much better placed to face the consequences of the changes in the price of oil than other countries, say Japan, Italy and France.

This has led to a re-evaluation of the prospects for sterling—given a likely continuing



current account surplus. This view has been reinforced by the Government's commitment to maintain the stability of sterling and by a lessening of fears of runaway inflation in the UK.

In these circumstances, UK short-term interest rates and long-term bond yields have in-

evitably looked attractive following the increase in the Bank of England's Minimum Lending Rate from 12 1/2 to 14 per cent a month ago.

Even after the subsequent decline in yields, three-month interest rates in London are still more than 2 points higher than

in New York and roughly 3 points above those in West Germany. As the accompanying graph shows there is also a substantial gap in favour of UK gilt-edged returns. This adds up to a strong case for overseas investors especially in light of analysts' predictions that the whole spectrum of UK interest rates will fall.

On the one hand, there has been an incentive for a corporate treasurer to switch funds, say in New York, back to London given relative short-term interest rates. For institutions, there is an attraction either to switch short-term sterling deposits longer since there is still a positive slope to the yield curve, or to bring in money from outside the UK.

This has certainly been profitable, not least for anyone who received an allotment in the heavily over-subscribed long-dated 2000-08 issue a month ago. This is now showing a potential profit of 81 per cent in its 215 per cent bid (with a call price of £35 per cent due tomorrow).

U.S. BONDS

BY STEWART FLEMING

Monitoring the Fed

A SUSPICION that the Federal Reserve Board may be shuffling gingerly in the direction of further monetary restraint halted a mild rally in the New York bond markets on Friday afternoon. Investors will be monitoring the moves of the Fed's open market desk especially closely this week for clearer signs of the central bank's policy.

As yet there is no consensus beyond the conviction that the Fed is impressed more by the continued strength of the economy and further evidence of double-digit inflation in the February producer price index than it is by the puzzling slowdown in monetary growth. Last week saw a further \$1.7bn decline in the M1 measure of the money supply.

Some analysts concluded on Friday that a further tightening of monetary policy in response

to the inflationary threat is beginning.

The Chase Manhattan Bank says that the tightness in the Federal funds market on Friday and the three and six month reverse repurchase agreements the Fed completed to drain funds "were not merely an effort to offset operating factors but were also designed to implement a slightly higher (Federal) funds target."

If this judgment is correct it will be the first time this year the central bank has moved to edge the key Federal funds interest rate above its current target of a weekly average of around 10 per cent.

Many analysts would argue that further evidence is needed before concluding that the Fed is starting to nudge interest rates higher.

Nevertheless, last week did provide evidence that the banking authorities still see

monetary restraint as the main thrust of policy.

The decision to prohibit savings and loan associations from compounding interest on the six-month money market certificates they were first allowed to issue in June of last year is primarily designed to ease a serious profits squeeze at the thrift institutions. As interest rates have risen, the thrifts have found their cost of funds rising sharply but they have not been able to raise the interest rate they charge borrowers as quickly.

Until Friday the long-term bond markets had responded positively to the new developments partly because the new issue market was making little demand on investors' cash resources. On the week long-term corporate and government securities were generally a half point higher in price. This week's calendar of new issues is light, too.

FT INTERNATIONAL BOND SERVICE

IS	Issued	Bid	Offer	Change	Day	Week	Yield
US 30	25	94 1/2	95 1/2	+1 1/2	10.18		
US 30	25	94 1/2	95 1/2	+1 1/2	10.18		
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US 30	25	94 1/2	95 1/2	+1 1/2	10.18		
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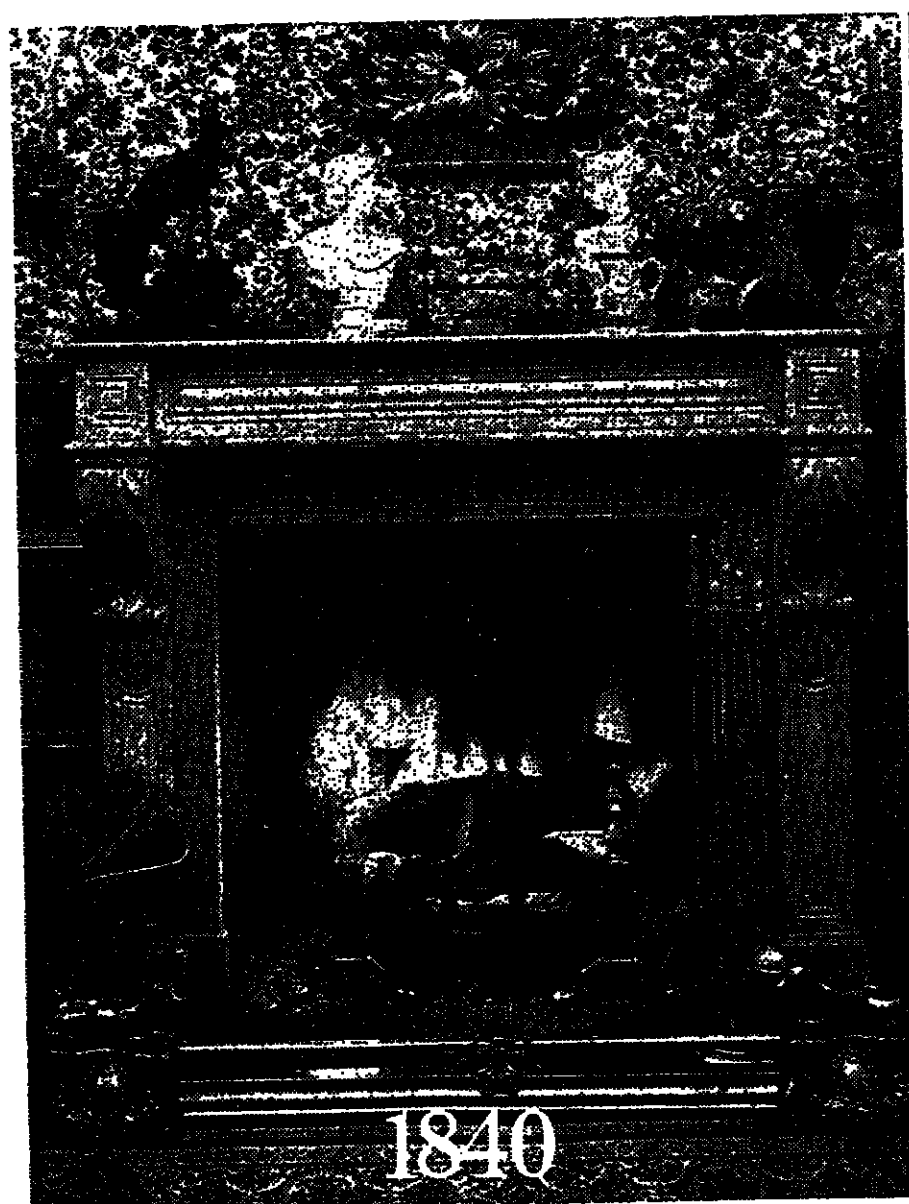
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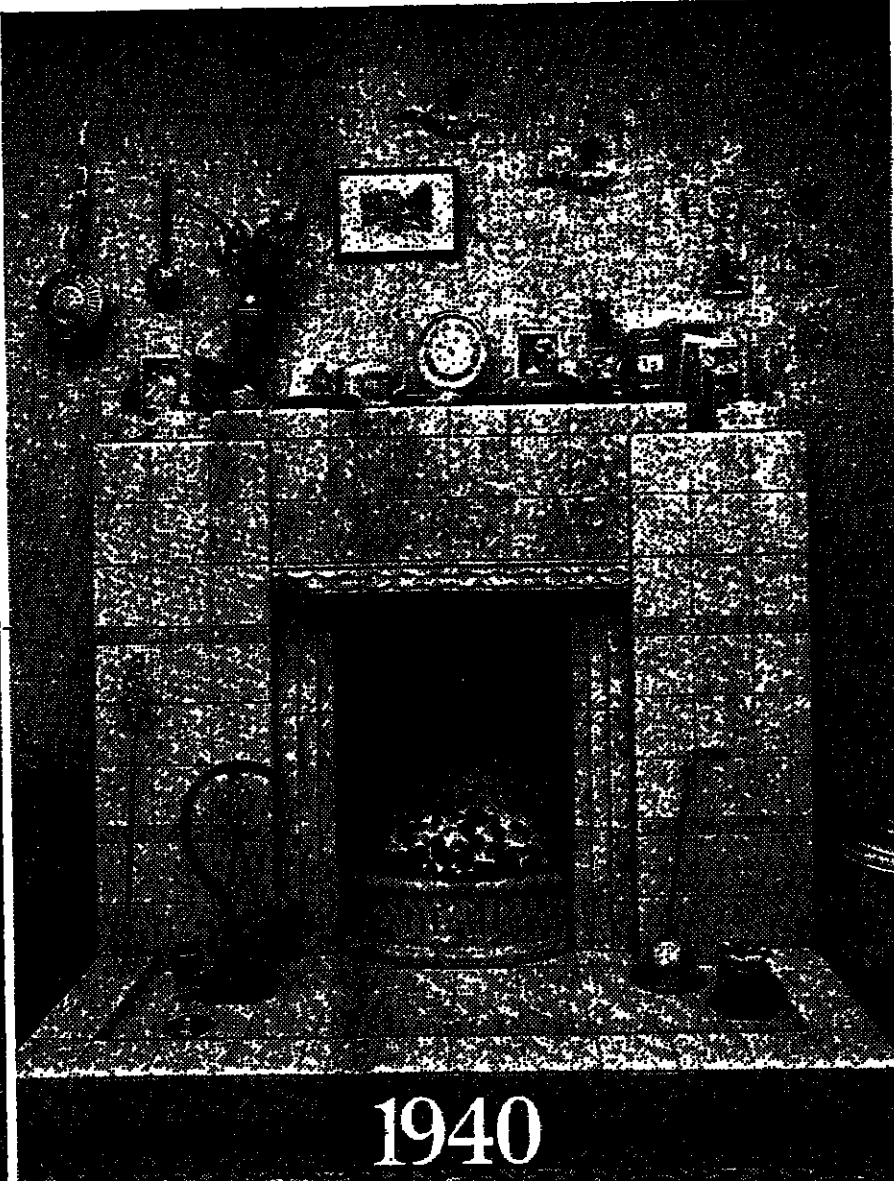
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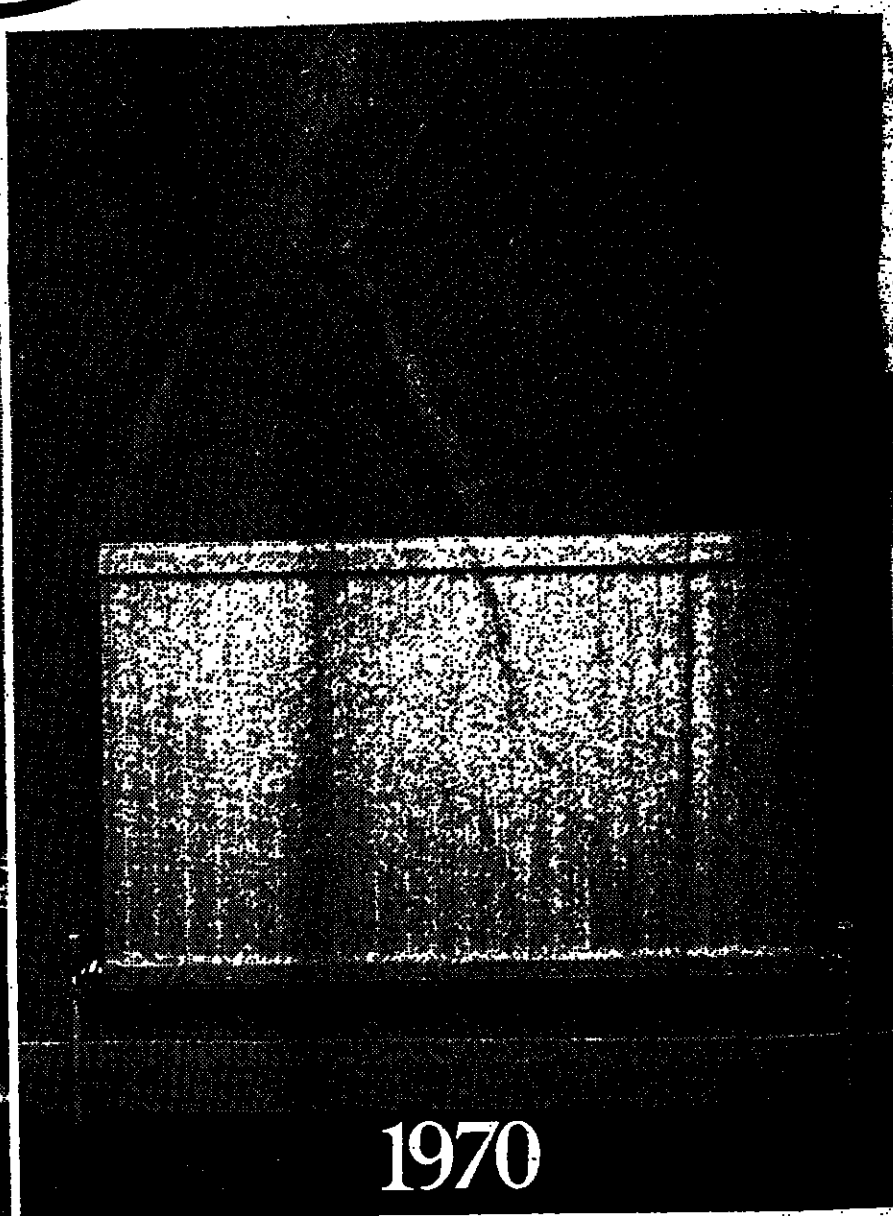
Is the living-room dying?



1840



1940



1970

Last year, two thirds of all new houses were built without chimneys.

That won't be news if you're an architect or builder. Nor will the fact that leaving out the chimney saves around £200.

It seems to make sense, particularly now so many houses are built with central heating.

But think for a moment what's being lost.

The fire as the heart of a room.

The way things are going, it won't be long before there's only the glow from a TV for a family to sit round.

As gas fire manufacturers, we're obviously concerned.

Where there's a chimney, a gas fire is what most people choose.

Ten million homes have them. More would, but for the lack of a flue.

If it were left to house buyers, probably most new houses would have a chimney.

The benefit easily outweighs the extra cost, which is only a fraction of the total house price.

All we hope is that you think that counts for something.

Otherwise the living-room may not pull through.



For a glow you need a room with a flue.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WRITE TO: S.B.G.I. ASSOCIATION OF GAS EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS AND CONTRACTORS 56/58 HOLLY WALK, LEAMINGTON SPA, WARWICKSHIRE, CV32 4JE

FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY

Monday March 12 1979

West Yorkshire

هكزامن الأهل

Though the county has its share of social, industrial and environmental problems, it also has strengths which are helping the area to weather the current recession. However, the pace at which West Yorkshire can progress still further industrially from its 19th century roots will depend on Britain's economic performance as a whole.

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oint
or
BritainRhys David
Northern Correspondent

ANY analyst anxious to see the first signs of a recovery in the British economy will have to look to the north. The world's second largest manufacturing base, the north of England, is the heart of Britain's industrial strength. It is here that the country's major manufacturing industries are concentrated. It is here that the country's major manufacturing industries are concentrated. It is here that the country's major manufacturing industries are concentrated.

Britain's industrial prospects, however, in economic terms the county shares many of the structural problems affecting other major UK centres, but it also has a number of important assets which suggest that it is one of the areas of Britain where a pick-up in the economy would soon manifest itself.

To take problems first, West Yorkshire remains substantially dependent for manufacturing employment on three sectors—textiles, clothing and mining—prospects for which at best have to be considered uncertain. The bulk of Britain's wool textile industry is concentrated in the county, in Bradford and Huddersfield, with Scotland the other major production centre, and although the industry has moved up-market and currently exports 40 per cent of an output worth roughly £400m a year, it remains prey to foreign competition. Controls have been placed on subsidised imports from low-cost sources but it has proved very difficult to counter the challenge of the Italian producers of woollen (as opposed to worsted) cloth, and the French have also now emerged as very competitive suppliers of tops and yarns.

In clothing the county has been seriously affected by the changes which have overtaken traditional markets—such as men's suits and men's and women's outerwear. Clothing employment in the county stood at 41,000 in 1961, most of it in Leeds, where mass-market tailors such as Burton had big factories turning Bradford cloth into made-to-measure suits. The decline of this trade as a result of the switch to ready-to-wear

suits and casual clothing—a trend which Burton in particular failed to observe in time—has resulted in a halving of clothing employment in West Yorkshire.

The future of the mining industry in the county is also difficult to assess. Though coal's importance seems likely to increase still further as a result of oil supply and price uncertainties, the future of the county's collieries will be affected by the development of the great new Selby coalfield in neighbouring North Yorkshire. The National Coal Board will be looking to the population centres of West and South Yorkshire to man Selby, and this could involve the transfer of men away from some of the more marginal mines in the area.

Like all other parts of Britain the county has also had to accept a number of large closures as a result of the recession, some in relatively new industries brought into the area to reduce its dependence on the already declining wool textile industry. The two biggest closures, by the Lucas and Thorn electrical groups, both in Bradford, have resulted in the cumulative loss of some 3,000 jobs.

Success

There are other important social and economic problems within West Yorkshire which have tended to be obscured by the area's apparent success in avoiding the high unemployment of other parts of the North. For most of the 1970s West Yorkshire's unemployment total

has been around, or even slightly below, the British average. Pay tends to be low, however, because much of the employment is in textiles and clothing. A report drawn up by the county last year pointed out that West Yorkshire had the highest proportion of low-paid workers, and the longest average working week of all counties in the country, except for a few rural areas.

West Yorkshire also has its share of severe environmental problems. Though considerable clearance work has taken place in the major conurbations, the legacy of the very rapid growth and subsequent decline of the wool textile industry is still to be seen in the many disused or partly-used mills in Bradford and in the cramped terraced streets which survive in Leeds, Bradford and some of the other important centres in the area.

Social problems go hand-in-hand with these environmental problems. In the inner areas of the major conurbations within West Yorkshire there are the now familiar city centre problems of substandard living conditions, poor public amenities and lack of jobs. There are also pockets of high unemployment in some of the older mining and textile areas within the county, and growing concern over the dereliction problems still being created through industrial waste. Space has to be found each year in West Yorkshire for 7.3m cubic metres of waste—the great bulk of it generated by the National Coal Board and from the burning of power station coal.

But while these problems are serious, the county does have a number of strengths as well, which have played an important part in helping it to weather the current recession more easily than most of Britain's other major industrial regions.

First, the county's industrial base is impressively large and has been further broadened over recent years. Major chemical and dyestuffs manufacturers in the area—originally by the textile industry—include ICI Organics Division, L. B. Holliday, Yorkshire Chemical, Hickson and Welch and Allied Colloids.

Weapons

In engineering and metal manufacture major employers include Yorkshire Imperial Metals in Leeds, Renold, and Hepworth and Grandage both in Bradford, Daniel Doncaster, in Leeds, Hopkinson, valve manufacturers, and David Brown Gears in Huddersfield. There are big tractor plants in Huddersfield (David Brown Tractors) and in Bradford (International Harvester), and the Royal Ordnance Factory in Leeds is one of Britain's main weapons factories.

The county is also one of the most important UK centres for carpet manufacture, specialising in the modern, tufted carpets which have now taken over the bulk of the market from the traditional woven product.

Halifax is the main production base for John Crossley, one of the biggest tufted pro-

ducers. The town is also an important machine tool centre.

The area has almost certainly been helped, too, during the present recession by its strength in depth. Most of the employment in West Yorkshire is in companies employing fewer than 1,000, and very many of these are locally based. The area's dependence on State-owned groups, with the exception of the National Coal Board, is also limited, as indeed is its exposure to the motor industry.

It is significant too that although West Yorkshire is only accorded the status of intermediate area under the government's regional policy—qualifying for a lower level of aid than full development areas—it has been a major beneficiary under the government's schemes for aiding particular industrial sectors. The county is well represented in a number of the sectors chosen for special schemes—wool textiles, clothing, ferrous foundries and machine tools among them—and as such has had considerable assistance in restructuring its industrial base. Estimates suggest that these four schemes alone will provide the area with £25m in assistance, helping to generate 4 or 5 times as much in total investment.

There are signs too that investment generally within the area may be picking up. The biggest current scheme is a plan by BL to spend £25m on redevelopment of its aluminium, foundries in Leeds, and smaller, but still important, investment schemes are also under way within the county's chemical and engineering sectors.

Estate agents in the area have reported over the past six months an improvement in demand for industrial and commercial property. Some parts of the county remain more attractive than others with developers finding interest particularly strong in the area close to the M62/M1/M621 interchange in Leeds, and in Wakefield with its very good road and rail links.

As part of its policy of trying to stimulate industrial development throughout the area, West Yorkshire is itself to spend £20m over the next 10 years, much of it improving access to industrial land. Much of the spending will be concentrated in economic priority areas identified as most in need of regeneration.

Attractive

Government money under the inner city partnership scheme is also being made available in Leeds and Bradford and the county is hoping to secure EEC funds for its Scheme for Textile Area Regeneration (STAR). Such a scheme, designed to help make older industrial areas more attractive to potential investors, could be applied elsewhere in the Community if it proves successful in West Yorkshire, the county points out.

In addition, the county has put forward a case based on the availability of skills locally, excellent labour relations and good communications for selection as the site for the new

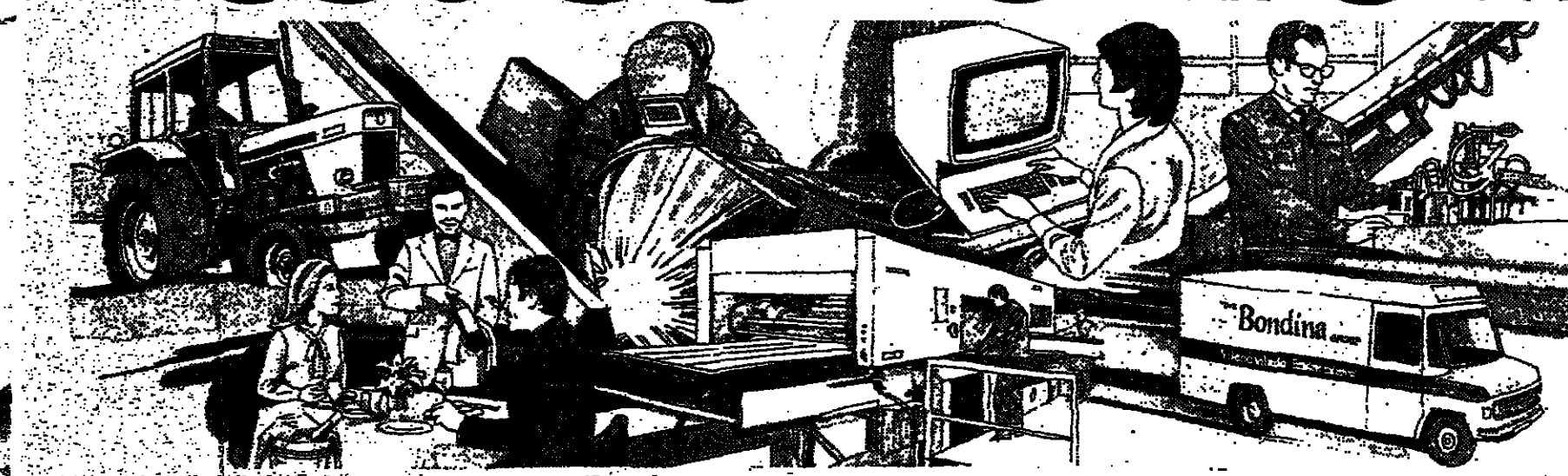
Immos microprocessor manufacturing plant.

Whether or not West Yorkshire is successful with this application—and it faces strong competition from just about every other local authority in the UK—there is a realisation that growth in future will have to come increasingly from within the county itself. And here, apart from having the advantage of a widely diversified industrial base, the county can also point to a long tradition of entrepreneurial activity and self-help. Leeds market, for example, saw in the last century the first Marks and Spencer stall, and the area has also spawned many of the leading names in mail order as well as a number of other prominent retail groups such as Asda and the regionally important Wm. Morrison and Hillards groups.

The area is also the home of Britain's building society movement, with five of the top 20 societies in terms of assets, including the biggest, the Halifax, within its borders. Leeds, as the capital of Yorkshire in all but name, has managed to attract a wide range of other financial institutions, including a number of foreign banks.

As in all Britain's major industrial regions there are clearly problems of renewing an industrial base and associated infrastructure laid down originally in the last century. In West Yorkshire much of the ground-work has been done, however. The pace at which the next steps can be taken will depend very much on the performance over the next few years of the UK economy as a whole.

West Yorkshire works well.



Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield. The five districts which make up the big industrial conurbation of West Yorkshire.

Yet even though there has been a centre of industry since the Industrial Revolution, West Yorkshire is still an area ripe for expansion.

It has room for you to grow with land available, it's Britain's number one communications centre and it has a whole host of other advantages to help you live and work well in West Yorkshire.

But rather than list them, just listen to what people from some of the well-established and equally well-known companies in West Yorkshire have to say.

NORMAN REYNOLDS

Norman Reynolds is Sales and Marketing Director at Doulton Tempered Glass in Bradford, one of the biggest independent glass manufacturers in the north.

Doulton are also one of the young breed businesses in West Yorkshire. They started here just five years ago in '74.

Here in a nutshell is why Norman is so impressed with West Yorkshire as an area: "Our double glazing and tempered glass business has increased by phenomenal 7% since 1974. This increase has justified the best way possible the company's decision to invest and expand in West Yorkshire."



It's really down to two main points. First, a right pool of experienced and settled labour, and, incidentally, our labour force is increased by 50% since 1974. Second, a plant is extremely well positioned from supply point of view. In fact, we've a factory that leaves the factory mid-afternoon

and is in Rotterdam at 6.00 a.m. the next morning, so you can see the Common Market is right on our doorstep."

These are two of West Yorkshire's biggest advantages.

A hardworking, diligent and fair workforce which has one of the lowest strike records in the country.

And communications. The ability to get supplies and services in and out of the area quickly, easily and economically. An attribute which our second spokesman will now amplify.

David Brown Glass Ltd
Doulton Glass Insulation Ltd

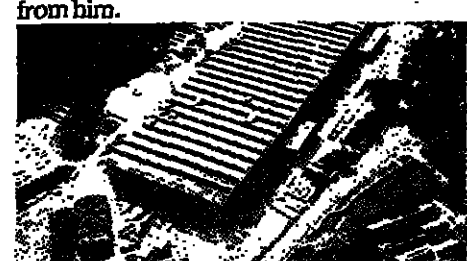
MICHAEL ROBSON

Michael Robson, Marketing, Planning and Development Manager of the world-famous David Brown Tractors from Huddersfield, now affiliated to the American J.I. Case Company, has this to say about the excellent communications in West Yorkshire:

"We export up to 80% of our farm tractor production, and good communications are vital. In West Yorkshire, we are within easy reach of the M62, M6, M1 and A1, a motorway network which gives us fast links with the east and west coast ports of Hull and Liverpool, the main railheads of Bradford and Leeds and our two closest airports of Leeds/Bradford and Manchester. Mike also believes West Yorkshire gives

your business room to grow, as you can see from their well-situated factory.

That's why, as a company, they have stayed in West Yorkshire since 1937. But let's hear it from him.



"When we wanted to set up a brand-new parts distribution centre, we needed to look no further than Bailey in West Yorkshire. We found an existing building ideal for our purpose and, again, it's within minutes of the motorway network."

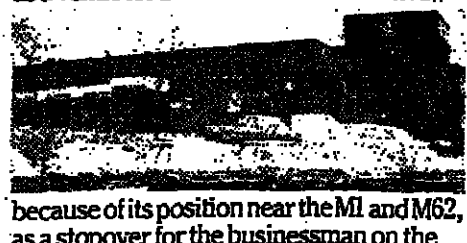
DAVID BROWN CASE

Michael Robson

HARRY HARANGOZO

Harry Harangozo is the Manager of The Post House, Wakefield, one of the Trust Houses Forte hotels.

The Post House has been open for seven years now and is extremely popular as a venue for business conferences and,



because of its position near the M1 and M62, as a stopover for the businessman on the move. Harry says:

"The site was chosen because of its situation in the heart of Britain's number one communications network. And as West Yorkshire's business has grown, ours has grown accordingly. In fact, we're a kind of 'yardstick' for West Yorkshire's

growth and, at this rate, The Post House must have a very secure future."

The Post House is excellent proof of West Yorkshire's capacity to grow, and proof also of its ability to cater for the fast-moving industries of today.

JOHN BURNISTON

John Burniston is Marketing Services Manager of British Jeffrey Diamond in Wakefield, one of the world's leaders in the design and production of mining machinery.

BJD are indicative of West Yorkshire's pioneering and enterprising spirit, having just received a massive order from China worth over \$4.5 million.

That means they'll be expanding...but where?

"We have no need to look outside West Yorkshire. Winning this order from China was only made possible by the back-up and involvement of our entire 1,800-strong workforce."

JOHN WADDINGTON LTD

NORMAN KEMP

Norman Kemp is Distribution Manager of Halifax-based Bondina Ltd, a multimillion-pound part of the Freudenberg organisation.

Bondina manufacture non-woven fabrics and were one of the first on the UK textiles scene with this process.

After expanding by 30% in '77/'78 and getting well on target for another 17% growth this year, they're just in the process of building a new distribution centre.

And West Yorkshire had the room for

You've heard from seven people living and working in West Yorkshire. Now let's hear from you.

If you think West Yorkshire sounds like the kind of place where both you and your business would work well, ring the number below or write to:

The Industrial Development Officer, West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council, County Hall, Wakefield WF1 2GW

RING NOW! 0924 67111

WEST YORKSHIRE Metropolitan County Council

ANDREW CALLAWAY
Andrew Callaway is Information Officer at John Waddington Ltd, the world-famous games manufacturers based in Leeds.

Some of their products, such as Monopoly and Cluedo, are household names around the world but Waddingtons are also leading makers of folding cartons, labels, greetings cards, continuous stationery and plastic packaging through



their Plastona subsidiary, who recently launched a revolutionary new drinks container called Plastocan.

Here's what impresses Andrew most about West Yorkshire:

"Our people are our prime asset. We've thought that ever since 1913 when one of our foremen had the idea of diversifying into commercial printing generally rather than concentrating on printing solely for the theatre and music hall. That diversification has continued, and now we've just spent around \$5 million on a new warehouse for our Plastona goods."

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WEST YORKSHIRE Metropolitan County Council



them to grow. As Norman says:

"The company received excellent co-operation from the authority. No barriers were present and we finished up with our centre adjacent to the M62 motorway just a mile from the main plant."

That means we'll have a distribution and warehouse complex that can deal with exports not only to the east and west coasts but also throughout the UK better than almost anywhere else."

M. Kemp Bondina

PETER WALLER

Peter Waller is Branch Manager in Leeds of the International company IBM. IBM's Data Processing Division Sales and Support Staff moved into new accommodation in the Bond Street Centre complex in August of last year. And here's Peter's impression of the county so far:

"It's a move reflecting IBM's confidence in the business opportunities of the area, confidence which has led to a steady expansion in the number of sales and support staff we have based in Leeds."

IBM

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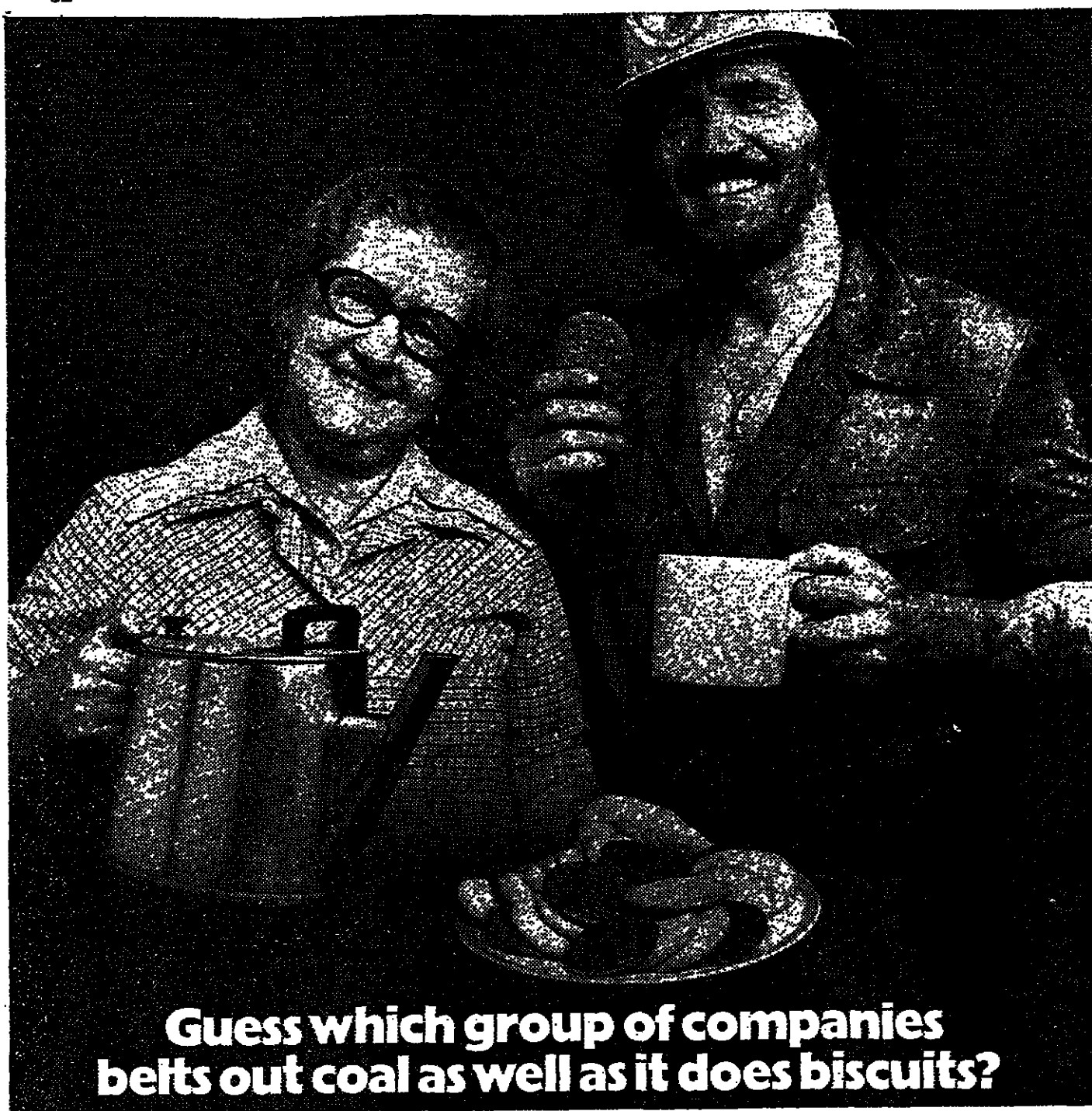
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WEST YORKSHIRE II

Fears about future for wool textiles

THE UK wool textile industry, has entered the current year in a state of some perplexity. Encouraged by successive governments, the industry, which employs in total around 80,000 has been a veritable model for other UK industries, maintaining a strong programme of investment and an aggressive attack on overseas markets.

Helped by assistance under the Industry Act, it has spent around £100m over the past five years on new plant and equipment, rationalisation and restructuring. It has also lifted the proportion of sales going overseas from the 25-30 per cent average of the early 1970s to around 40 per cent, with total overseas earnings last year exceeding \$400m.

Yet despite this performance, wool textile manufacturers find themselves asking once again what sort of future lies ahead for the industry as it faces up to renewed difficulties. Trade union leaders, too, are beginning to question whether the sacrifices made—including the loss of 4,500 jobs through Industry Act-aided schemes—were worth it. Instead of being able to enjoy higher wages and greater job security as a result of accepting changes, the labour force still finds itself working long hours, including overtime, for modest returns, with the prospect of further closures and redundancies ahead.

The industry's main problem and the reason for the current uncertainty is the loss of competitiveness in the home market, where the assault is now being mounted across a very broad front.

With the trend in clothing continuing to move towards a more casual appearance, 1978 saw a big rise in the consumption of woollen (as opposed to worsted) fabrics. Sadly, however, most of the increased UK market was met by imports, mainly from Italy.

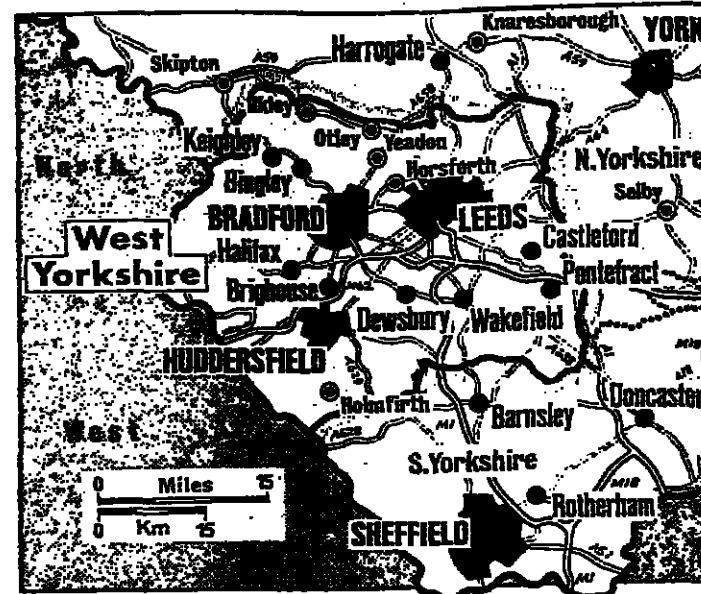
Competition

Producers in the Prato region of Italy now dominate the West European woollen scene and managed last year to increase their sales into the UK by 80 per cent to an estimated 25m sq metres, or roughly four fifths of all woollen fabric imports.

Producers in West Yorkshire have also been feeling the effects of increased competition from other EEC countries and this has more than offset the limitations now imposed on exports from low-cost countries under the GATT multi-fibre arrangement.

Imports of fabrics, yarns and tops (combed wool) from France have all increased significantly over the past year. EEC countries have also been increasing their penetration of the UK suit market, which has in any case been declining over recent years, again as a result of the switch to casual clothing. These developments have hit the wool textile industry's customers—the suit manufacturers—and hence reduced their purchases of cloth.

At the same time the threat from low-cost sources remains strong. Though the Government has been able to persuade the EEC to take action in a number of cases—for example against Argentina, which was placed under quota last year after stepping up its exports



of wool cloth to Britain—the threat from other sources is less easily countered.

The EEC's Mediterranean associates, in particular, although now subject to a degree of control, enjoy privileged access to EEC markets, and the three associates pursuing full EEC membership—Greece, Spain and Portugal—will be a continuing source of strong competition.

Britain, too, is having to fight very strongly within the EEC against the adoption of a liberal policy on outward processing—the transfer of fabric outside the Community for conversion into clothing followed by subsequent re-importation. Though initially only the labour-intensive clothing process would be carried out in low-cost countries, the textile industry believes other processing stages such as the manufacture of wool textiles would be transferred later as well.

The threat to the wool textile industry comes in fact at both ends of the processing spectrum. Countries such as South Africa and Australia, which produce much of the wool used in the UK, have already moved forward into top-making and spinning.

The industry's other current problem is the weakening of some of its most important export markets as the world recession goes on. Demand from Japan and the Middle East, two markets which have served the Huddersfield-based fine worsted trade very well during the 1970s, has levelled off and excessive tariffs make it very difficult for the industry to penetrate the

U.S. market. The worsted trade's salvation in 1978 was a major contract with Iran for uniforms for the army, not a contract likely to be repeated in the immediate future.

One result of these more difficult trading conditions has been that the industry's Economic Development Committee (EDC) has felt obliged to revise downwards some of the objectives it had originally set.

Modest

A more modest growth in exports is now being looked for, with sales of 33-35m sq metres as the target for 1980, compared with the 27m sq metres figure achieved in 1975. Exports of woollen fabrics in the range 30-33m sq metres are being looked for, compared with 24m sq metres in 1975. Previously the EDC had been hoping the industry could recover the highest share of world trade it had held between 1970 and 1975 in both products.

In the home market it is recognised that the industry will do well to contain imports at their present level rather than, as had earlier been hoped, at the somewhat lower levels set in 1975.

The implication of these lower objectives, however, is fewer jobs, with employment of production workers falling from 59,000 at present to between 47,000 and 54,000 by 1980. Most of the loss would fall on West Yorkshire as the main manufacturing centre in the UK. But although the industry's prospects look less bright than had been hoped only a year or

two ago, it nevertheless has a number of strengths which seem certain to help it maintain its position as one of the world's most important producers of high quality cloth.

First the investment which has been placed under the Industry Act aid scheme means that the sector now has a modern production base—any of its rivals in Europe are relatively low—by European standards at any rate. Textile labour costs, for example, were recently estimated at 100 per cent more than those in the UK, Italian costs 40 per cent greater, and German, Dutch and Belgian costs twice as great.

Developments within the trade over the past year have also shown, however, that the battle to survive, the industry has to be sure of being quick on its feet. The worsted trade has benefited for the few years from the popularity on the Continent of the 'Biba' look—menswear, but not more important developments have been the trend towards casual clothing, a move which benefits woollen producers.

The extent to which Biba imposes met the increased demand for woollen cloth in the UK suggests that production in West Yorkshire—where the wool trade has for some time been a healthy and growing industry—has opportunities and did not have available at the right price the materials that potential consumers were seeking.

The EDC also pointed out in its recent report on the sector that substantial scope exists for improving the industry's share of EEC markets. At present, despite having almost one-third of the EEC's wool textile labour force, Britain comes behind Italy, West Germany, France and the Netherlands in terms of intrajob trade.

Opportunities as well as problems therefore exist, before the wool textile industry, which for all its vicissitudes remains one of the most important elements within the West Yorkshire economy since most of it is based in the county. The lesson of the past year is that even with successful programmes of investment and rationalisation behind it, the industry will have to keep on trying harder if it is to succeed in placing its products with customers now able to choose from an ever-widening list of sources.

Rhys Davids

How to pass Go in games market

ONE OF Britain's top-selling board games last year was Campaign. It is a war game based on the Duke of Wellington's battles in the Napoleonic Wars.

But for selling in Germany the name of the game has been changed to Waterloo. The reason, according to Mr. Victor Watson, chairman of the makers, John Waddington, is that the Germans identify with Waterloo. Remembering Blücher's last-minute appearance on the battlefield, they regard it as one of their famous victories.

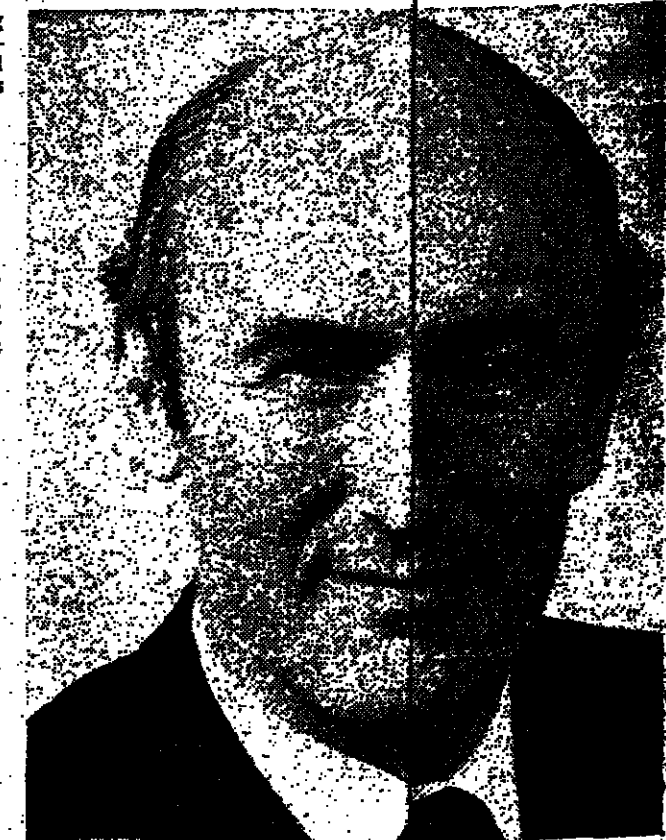
Coping with such matters of gamesmanship is Mr. Watson's business. His Leeds-based printing group has in the past half century built up a top position in the UK games market.

Mr. Watson is Mr. Monopoly. His company holds the licence for what is still the world's best-selling board game and people in Leeds will tell you that the company owes its prosperity to it. That isn't quite true.

The latter-day story of Waddingtons goes back to 1913. At that time it was a small printing company producing theatre programmes and deeply in debt. The then foreman printer—another Victor Watson and the present chairman's grandfather—persuaded the directors to let him try to revive the business, which had 23 employees left and was valued at less than £10,000. The company now employs 3,000 and last year's pre-tax profits exceeded £2.5m.

The reigning Victor Watson fills the gaps. In the 1930s Wills, the tobacco company, introduced giveaway playing cards in cigarette packets and Waddington won the contract to print them, a deal which carried the company through the slump of the 1930s. And it was a playing card word game, Lexicon, that put Waddington in the games business. Monopoly came later.

Now Mr. Watson, 50, a Cam-



Mr. Victor Watson

bridge graduate and ex-Royal Engineer, presides over a gamesmanship empire that takes in Canada, the U.S. and France, and is expanding in UK development areas such as Scotland and Teesside.

The plumb in the pudding is certainly Monopoly. In 1977, the World Monopoly championships took over Monte Carlo's casino and an operation which became known as Victor Watson's Flying Circus began.

Competitors, organisers and journalists were flown to Monaco in a specially-chartered

jet and escorted to the cab by yellow Rolls-Royces and police-motor cycle team. "A bit of a party," commented Mr. Watson from Southampton.

One of the reasons for Victor Watson's success, I believe, is that he accepts that games are part of people's fantasy life to a degree for a night, a game, for a night. One of Waddington's latest products is a racing game called 'I Saw Short which I saw-b played enthusiastically by owners, trainers and jockey

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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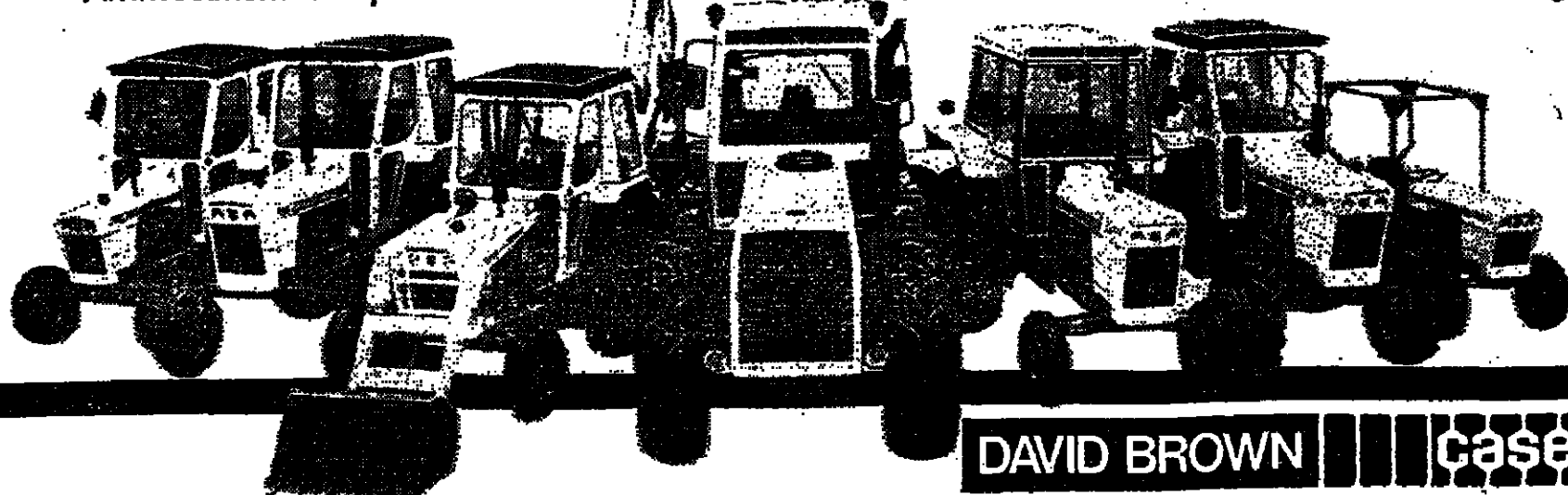
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WEST YORKSHIRE III

Building societies debate future

IN A CLEAR day, from the historic new headquarters of the Halifax Building Society dominating the city's skyline, you can see, if not forever, at least a substantial area of the illing green and open sides of the West Yorkshire countryside. However, views of the future prospects facing the building societies, of which West Yorkshire is both the traditional home and the current base of some of Britain's largest societies, are rather more clouded.

Officials at the Halifax, which with its £7.6bn assets, nearly 10 open mortgage accounts and 100,000 investors accounts, is the largest of Britain's 326 societies, do not quite share the view held in some parts of the building society movement that a crisis is beginning to darken the horizon. But the view itself is gaining ground, even if the crisis is seven or eight years off, and concerns the societies' continuing ability both to attract the increasingly huge sums needed to cover rising house prices and the rising level of private home ownership, and to convert into mortgages an adequate amount of the funds at their disposal.

The crisis lobbyists, whose ranks include Mr. Alan Mason, chief general manager of the Provincial Building Society, headquartered 20 miles from Halifax, in Leeds, argue that a major restructuring of the movement's entire interest rate base is necessary. They claim that it must involve both a cut in the rates paid to short-term, sequential transaction accounts and higher rates for more stable, long-term investments, if the societies are to head off the spectre of mortgage famine and considerably more expensive borrowing by the late 80s.

They base their case on a number of factors and suggest that although societies have managed so far to retain their share of slightly more than one-third of personal savings, and even the expected £200bn added to make 1m home loans this year, compared with £8.5bn for 1978, it is going to prove difficult.

Ratio

The average level of withdrawals by investors has already risen markedly, mainly as a result of the trend within societies to encourage investors to use their accounts much like bank accounts. The average level of individual sav-

balances has also fallen considerably, contributing to the effect that five investors are now needed to cover one mortgage, against a ratio of 2:1 less than 20 years ago.

And, with a total of 23m investment accounts open in Britain, the danger is pointed out that the movement might simply run out of investors. Finally, say the lobbyists, the proliferation of transactions by investors is bringing an extra dimension to the problem through higher operating costs.

Mr. Richard Wheway, the Halifax's financial general manager, says: "It's perfectly true that if you look at the ratio of investors to borrowers, it has been going up. The ratio of new investors to new borrowers has been going up even faster." But in the longer term, Mr. Wheway suggests, the situation is still not one to cause undue alarm.

"Small accounts do tend to become larger ones, and there is an underlying stability to the smaller accounts which is not present at the moment among the larger ones." Because of the greater volatility, he concedes that there might be a case for new inducements encouraging larger accounts into longer-term lending. "But what I don't see is the sense of attracting vast sums of money at a high premium in order to lend it out at a rate that is in fact less than the cost of what one is offering to the investor."

He also accepts that the crisis lobbyists might have a point in suggesting that it is wrong or uneconomic—at least, looked at from a marginal basis—to pay the same interest on a small and frequently moving account as on the larger and, at least potentially, more immovable ones. "I don't know whether we have quite seen it on that basis in the past; maybe we shall have to look again if people really do come to use their building society accounts as current accounts. But I don't think we've got to that stage yet."

And, the Halifax suggests, the proportion of investors actually using their accounts in that manner remains relatively small and operating costs have not been significantly heightened by their activities.

The issues involved are complex, and debate on the future of the societies is bound to increase rather than diminish, not least in West Yorkshire where the movement began almost 200 years ago.

This is reflected in the current national structure of the societies: Four out of Britain's 10 biggest are contained within West Yorkshire's boundaries and possess combined assets of about £12bn. Smaller societies, though still with assets over the £100m mark, are scattered around the county.

While over the years there has been a continuing shake-out among the smaller members of the movement—it has shrunk to its present number from more than 1,300 at the end of the First World War—the larger societies have a consistent record of growth, even to the point where it is suggested in some quarters that they face the same risks of over-expansion that have confronted the clearing banks. The Leeds Permanent, with assets in 1978 of £1.9bn, the Provincial (£1.9bn) and Bradford and Bingley (£870m) have enjoyed consistent growth rates on a par with the Halifax, which has been opening new branches at the rate of 30 a year and which, last year, picked up 150,000 new mortgage accounts and lent more than £1.6m.

Altogether, the movement now has nearly 4,000 branches scattered around the country, and further growth is expected now to take the form more of converting agencies handling the societies' affairs—which outnumber the branches by a ratio of about three-to-one—into full-scale branches rather than expansion into such small remaining areas still uncovered.

Cling

It's all a far cry from the original societies, which developed first as no more than groups of industrial workers pooling savings to build each member a house in succession—the club closing down when all members were housed. While these societies were spread across the newly-industrialised North and Midlands of the early 18th century, it was notably in the textiles and manufacturing town of West Yorkshire that the permanent societies got under way 130 years ago.

And they have clung to their West Yorkshire bases. Computerised operations have to a large degree cancelled out the disadvantages of not having a London headquarters base, even for such large national operations. And although despite effective city centre modernisation schemes, West Yorkshire's uncontrolled industrial past is

still all too evident. Staffing presents few problems given the access to some of Britain's most picturesque countryside.

Indeed, despite the continuing run-downs in the textiles and clothing industries, the underlying prosperity and potential of the area, which enjoys intermediate assisted status and has an unemployment rate only a shade above the national average, is reflected in the steady growth of Leeds in particular as a financial and administrative centre for the region. Housing the head office of the Yorkshire Bank, it also contains the regional headquarters of the clearing banks.

During the late 1960s, it also attracted in an increasing number of merchant and foreign banks, although the economic setbacks of the post-1974 period have brought about some retrenchment. Nevertheless, apart from the merchant banking activities of the clearing banks themselves, Hill Samuel, N. M. Rothschild, Singer and Friedlander, and Julian B. Hodge are among those represented, together with the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation (ICFC).

Most recently, among the foreign banks the Banque Nationale de Paris has set up shop while the presence of others such as the Bank of Credit and Commerce International has been supplemented by those servicing the large Asian immigrant population of Bradford and Leeds, notably the Bank of India and Bank of Baroda.

The merchant banks' operations, tend to be at the representative level, however, with a man on the spot closely in contact with the area's peculiar commercial and industrial needs, but with substantive operations still taking place in London. With lack of demand for finance, rather than its availability, serving to depress banking activity in the current economic climate, competition for business remains intense. It is a situation which is unlikely to change radically in the near future.

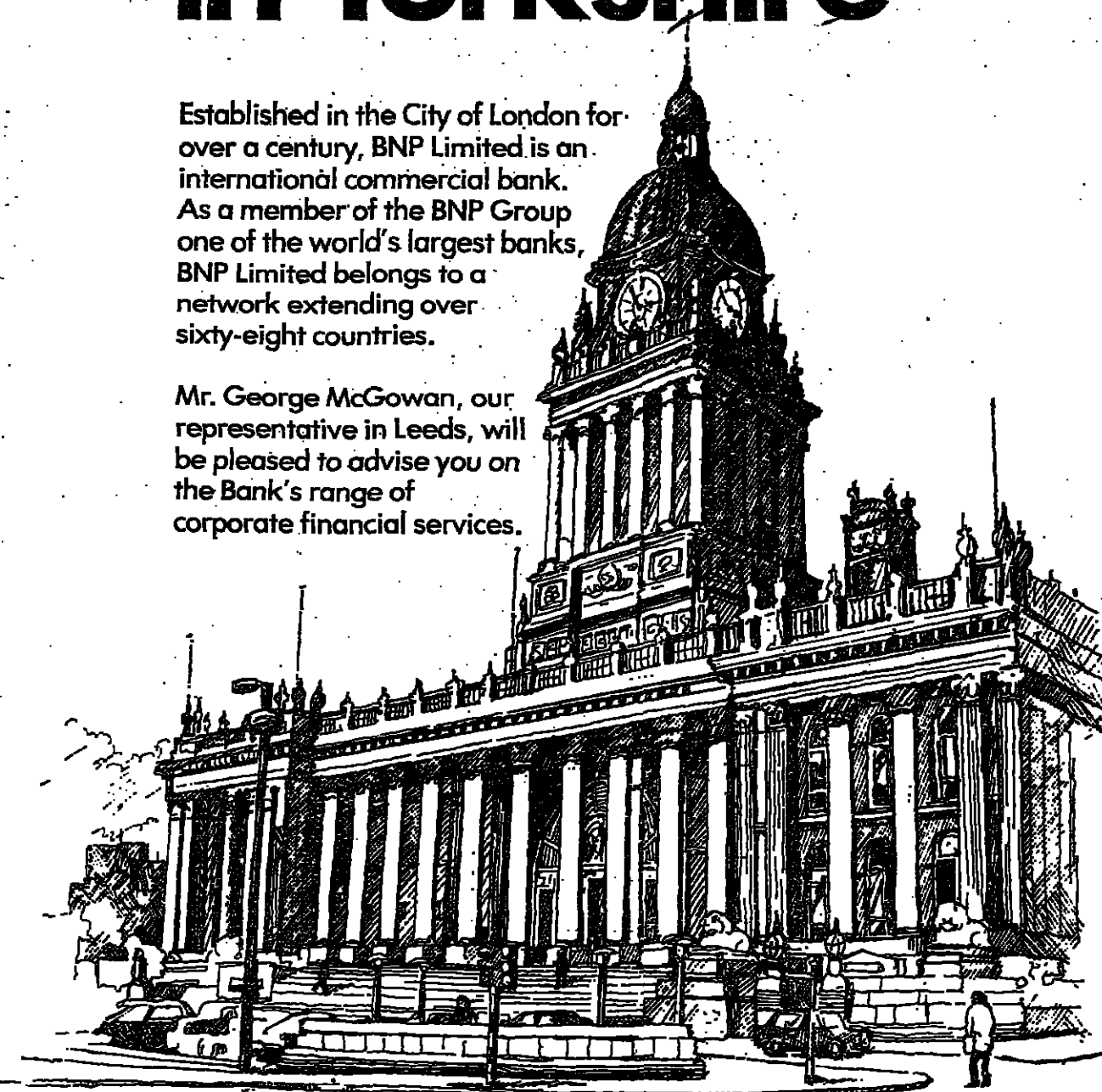
Mr. Ron Taylor, director of Leeds' Chamber of Commerce, observes: "As with most other places, although there has been something of a business upturn recently, the industries of West Yorkshire are by no means certain that it is any more than a temporary phenomenon. Beneath it all, there remains an underlying lack of confidence."

John Griffiths

BNP in Yorkshire

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Mail order business brings prosperity

HERE ARE many folktales about how the catalogue mail order business became firmly established in West Yorkshire. One is that a jeweller called Antonio Fattorini left Italy to hunt for the Battle of Waterloo, arrived in Belgium late and then settled in England to sell gold watches on weekly terms.

This may sound like the kind of story Yorkshiremen tell to attract the pomp out of visitors from south of the Wash, but it is on record that by the 1870s a member of Fattorini's family was running the Yorkshire Dales on orsackback selling watches "on tick" to farmers.

The idea was that a village would form a "watch club," each week, every one of the 20 members would pay a twentieth of the price of a watch and the name of the weekly recipient as drawn out of a hat.

Empire Stores, one of the two big mail order companies operating in Bradford, says in its latest house journal: "From the acorns, big oaks grow." In this case it is true. Empire and its Bradford competitor, Grattan, were both founded by Fattorini, a family and Peter Fattorini, a member of the family, is the present marketing director of Empire Stores.

The Fattorinis have long been prominent in the life of Bradford. Until recent years the family jewellers' shop was the centre of the great stores of the city, and, buying an engagement ring at Fattorini's was a girl's rite of passage in the local social register. Now the Fattorini name is seen no more, the business was sold out to Samuel some years ago.

Exactly how these two big businesses founded by one family split into separate entities is not quite clear. But they did. "Our only connection these days is in healthy competition," says Empire Stores managing director, Mr. J. Scott.

But there is no doubt that these two big mail order businesses have helped to maintain some prosperity in Bradford during the changes of the last couple of decades. The city is still the centre of the wool textile industry, but rationalisation in the local mill force reduced the labour force drastically and many of the women working for the mail order companies are former weavers and spinners.

Empire Stores, which is now massively computerised, feared companies, you can buy anything

having to declare redundancies when it streamlined its administration. But business increased sufficiently over the years for the company to keep its labour force at the level before computerisation.

In 1968 the company employed 2,000, with a turnover of £18m. Last year its labour force was 3,500, and turnover £100m.

Message

Empire operates mainly at Bradford and Wakefield. Bradford is the administrative centre—a firm investment in computer technology which covers orders, stock control, credit checks and even a complicated system of "personal" letters to agents and customers programmed to deal with almost every complaint or query.

An old employee said: "I remember the time when the girls just sat at high stools and wrote. Now they sit at keyboards with video screens. If somebody orders a pair of blue pyjamas and blue is out of stock they get the message on the video screen within seconds."

Empire's warehouse is in Wakefield and there too a visitor sees how far the business has moved since the days of selling watches from horseback.

Orders, guaranteed to be despatched to agents within 24 hours, move smoothly on the sort of production line you would expect in a car plant. In the quality control area, garment technologists examine faults, some of them sent in by suppliers "against whom" complaints have been made.

Grattan's operation is growing too. It is the biggest of the independent mail-order houses. The company has grown from a staff of 2,000 in 1922 to a present labour force of 5,000. The company prides itself on its marketing know-how. Its marketing staff will show a visitor the number of mentions it gets in the quality Press, even selective publication like The Lady. "If you want to say that Grattan is taking the mail-order business up-market, we wouldn't disagree," a member of the marketing staff said.

Grattan is now advertising high fashion from Lee Bender in its catalogue, another sign that the mail-order business is moving out of the area of cheap jewellery and workaday textiles. Looking at the range of products offered by the two Bradford companies, you can buy anything

from bicycles, to boats and cassette recorders. "We're looking to the day when you're able to buy an oil rig by mail order," one executive said, not entirely frivolously.

The VIP of all this business is the agent. A mail order executive said: "Anybody with a good credit rating can be an agent. We don't demand that an agent gets a long list of customers. Some agents just buy for themselves. Of course, an agent with 20 customers or so at his or her local factory is very welcome."

Sponsorship

Bradford's economy has gone through a bad patch recently. For example, Thorn closed its Bradford television tube plant in Lidget Green, only half a mile from Grattan's headquarters. But better news came when Grattan announced that it was taking over part of Thorn's premises to increase warehouse space—some compensation for

Games

a racecourse hotel recently on a day when the local National Hunt meeting was snowed off.

One of his problems at present is the competition in Britain's playing card trade, still an important part of Waddington's business. "My grandfather pioneered the playing card business," Watson says, "but now we're having difficulty in competing with imported cards from China and the Comorian countries."

There is the competition from electronic games, too, the newest venture for Waddington. Sitting in his office in Wakefield Road, surrounded by boxes with names like Knuckle Knipper, Zonkers, Dentist ("the hilarious electronic game of extracting teeth") and Spy Ring, Mr. Watson looks to the future.

"If you want to sell a game, describe it briefly and don't call us, we'll call you." That is the policy at Waddington. Victor Watson says it is still possible to make money out of inventing a game, but it is harder than most people think.

An hotel porter I met in Leeds has been told Waddington with a game, which, to use his own words, "includes every form of gambling from dog racing to Bingo." It has been

the jobs lost at Thorn.

Empire is also in the business of sports sponsorship. On Sunday, May 20, next, it will organise a cycle marathon from Hampstead to Bradford—with many of its suppliers as co-sponsors, companies such as Campari, Dorma, Dunlop, Fred Perry, Fry and Wrangler.

Grattan is using prestige names for marketing. Dickie Davies, anchor man of ITV's World of Sport, is starred in its latest publicity material. The company even got itself a mention in Bruce Forsyth's The Generation Game when one of its most skillful packers demonstrated how to wrap an awkward parcel.

Looking at Grattan's stylish premises and its sophisticated marketing techniques and Empire's girls with the video screens, one wonders what Signor Fattorini on his horse in the Yorkshire Dales would have thought about it all.

A.F.

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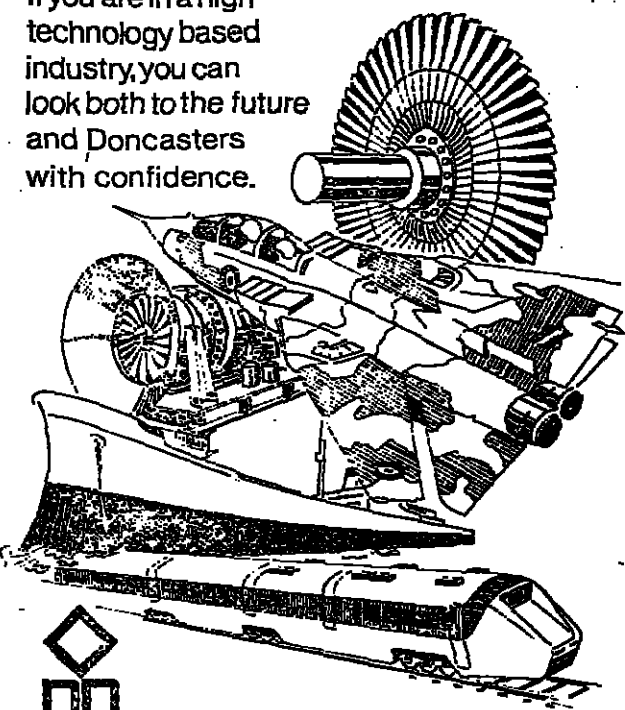
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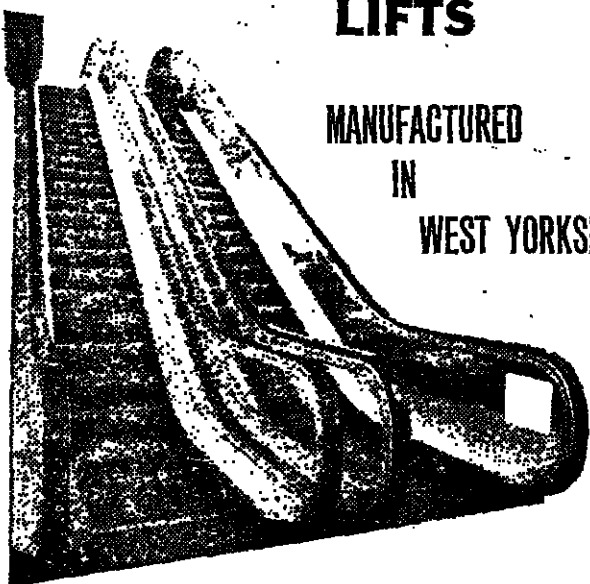


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Unions: a moderate tradition

LABOUR RELATIONS in West Yorkshire have been marked by moderation on the part of both the unions and management. Hand in hand has gone a rate of unemployment better than that for the Yorkshire-Humber side region and the country as a whole but with distinct area variations—and some significant underlying problems.

Although local authorities, development agencies, industry and the unions claim with considerable justification that industrial relations in West Yorkshire are good in relation to many other parts of the Yorkshire-Humber side region and to the country as a whole, over the past year there have been some considerable management-union conflicts over a wide range of issues.

These have included the 38-day Leeds bus strike over a new routing scheme and pay, a five-week strike in the clay industry, a pay dispute at BBA, a union recognition fight involving the TASS section of the engineering union at the Hopkinson engineering company, Huddersfield, and a strike relating to ownership changes at the Moderna blanket-making company.

These have been on top of national disputes—the lorry drivers and local authority and health service strikes for example—which have encompassed West Yorkshire. These stand out as exceptions, however, and in national terms most of the county's local strikes would not be considered major disputes. A number of factors have conspired to produce this situation.

First, factories in West Yorkshire have traditionally been small and remain so. The big-

gest rarely employ more than a few thousand workers and a great many have only a few hundred. This helps management and shopfloor to keep in relatively close touch with each other and ensures that in individual company strikes, the man hours lost figure is low.

A second related factor is that the county does not have many of the industries that are noticeably prone to worker-management conflict. There are no car manufacturing plants, shipyards or docks and very little mining.

Some of its indigenous industries, like textiles and clothing, have had long periods of decline where the attention of the workforce has largely been centred on survival. In some sectors the distribution of the workforce, with large numbers of immigrants and women, has not been conducive to strong trade unionism.

There may also be something in the character of the people. Mr. Brian Bigley, regional director of the CBI, points to a tradition among management of being accessible to its workers. Both he and Mr. Ernie Hayhurst, regional secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, also point to a deeply bred work ethic within the population. Moderation has been assisted by relatively low unemployment levels.

Much of the relative peace has stemmed from the traditionally moderate leadership at the top of the local union structure—men like Hayhurst and Mr. St. John Bluns, district secretary for the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers. Both these men are retiring this year but the tradition of maintaining an honest

working relationship between unions and management is expected to continue.

Unemployment in the whole of the Yorkshire-Humber side region has been largely in line with the national average over the past decade, although in 1975-77 it was marginally better. Last year it was the same at 6 per cent. The figures for West Yorkshire, however, have been consistently, even dramatically, better than those for other areas of the region and of the country as a whole.

In 1971 West Yorkshire's percentage unemployment figure for men and women together was 3.5 per cent, against the region's 3.9 per cent. The following year it was 3.6 per cent compared with 4.2 per cent, the biggest percentage variation between the county and the region during the decade. Between 1975 and 1977 the margin was smaller and last year West Yorkshire's unemployment was 5.6 per cent as against the region's 6 per cent.

Differences

There are some marked differences in unemployment figures within West Yorkshire, however. In simple terms, areas centred on Bradford and Castleford are problem black spots whereas Halifax and Huddersfield are doing much better than the county as a whole.

Bradford is almost certainly the biggest worry and its position relative to the county is worsening. In 1971 unemployment in the city was slightly worse than in the region, between 1972 and 1974 it was slightly better but its position has shown a deteriora-

tion since 1975. Last year unemployment in Bradford was 1 per cent higher than in the region and 1.4 per cent higher than West Yorkshire's average.

The main problem for Bradford has been further slides in the textile industry, with the 2,000 redundancies announced by the Thorn electrical group last year a separate blow.

Castleford is a traditionally high unemployment area. Although it is still worse than in the county, average unemployment in and around Castleford has been lower than Bradford's since 1976.

To put the matter in perspective, however, Bradford's figures are not as bad as those for some other areas of the region outside West Yorkshire—Hull and Mexborough, for example—nor are they as severe as a large number of industrial areas in other parts of the country.

Last year the unemployment level in Halifax and Huddersfield was not nearly so bad as in the region because of the spread of industry in those two areas, with Huddersfield in particular having a high and less vulnerable manufacturing base.

If male unemployment alone is taken into account Bradford's relative position is even worse and that of Huddersfield's better.

As in the whole of the country, there have been special factors governing unemployment among West Yorkshire's women. Between 1971 and 1978 there was a 259 per cent leap in female unemployment, far outstripping the increase in male unemployment. In the region the unemployment figure

for women was up 245 per cent. As with the national picture, much of this problem has been caused by the sheer numbers of women coming on to the job market. The Department of Employment says that what is perhaps surprising is that female unemployment in West Yorkshire has not suffered more.

The number of jobs filled by women in the county fell more than 18 per cent in 1971-76 as against the country and the regional figures of slightly more than 11.5 per cent. Beyond that West Yorkshire has no highly developed service sector industry where unemployment growth has been highest and therefore there is less of an employment sponge to soak up redundancies.

Discrepancy

The discrepancy between the county and the region was probably due to the sizeable job losses sustained in the textile industry which employs large numbers of women.

The increase in female unemployment in the county is not nevertheless greatly different from that for the whole country despite the fact that West Yorkshire has traditionally had a higher percentage share of the female population actually working.

Actual figures for female unemployment, however, may mask what is in fact a bigger problem than the statistics indicate. Mr. Duncan Tate, head of the DOE's regional manpower intelligence unit, believes that significant numbers of women dropped out of the jobs market. Some have gone to other areas but many simply do not register.

Immigrants from the Commonwealth countries account for 5 to 6 per cent of West Yorkshire's total unemployment and have possibly suffered more during the recent rise in unemployment than the county population as a whole. The department says it is difficult to pinpoint specific causes for this although the special problems of the textile industry is one.

As in most areas of the country, there are specific shortages of skilled labour, although the department believes some of the shortages have been exaggerated by some employers.

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Entering into the tourist market

EVEN AS little as ten years ago, the idea of spending a holiday in West Yorkshire would have seemed odd to most people south of Nottingham. It conjured visions of cloth caps, fish and chips, grey skies and dole queues.

This wasn't only a southern idea. West Yorkshire itself was slow to wake up to its tourist potential. Maybe, some people say, they didn't want tourists. They wanted to keep those wonderful stretches of wild moorland and rolling dales to themselves.

But in recent years the county, helped by the Yorkshire Tourist Board, has been making strides into the market. They began to think about their town centres as tourist bases and certainly they have a lot to offer visitors.

In one week in Leeds recently it was possible to see a National Theatre production of *Maugham's For Services Rendered*, a first-class repertory of Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* and two symphony concerts. And all this within a few minutes' drive of the Dales, the Bronte Country, golf courses where top championships are held, half a dozen racecourses and smooth and easy communications with the North Yorkshire coast, the Lake District and even Scotland.

The County Council sees West Yorkshire as an ideal centre for the one or two-night stop-over tourist and would like to get involved with more package holidays. A county official said: "With the shopping and entertainment facilities offered by towns such as Leeds, Bradford and Wakefield, we ought to be considered by round-Britain tourists wanting a break from ruins and stately homes."

The immediate appeal is to the business tourist. Wakefield, the small cathedral city in the south of the county which is county headquarters, has recently launched Europe's first Key Business Centre—offering visiting businessmen a complete package of services.

Everything from hotel booking to car hire is included. It was opened by Mr. Edmund Dell, the then Trade Secretary, and prospers with the support of the Yorkshire and Humber-side Tourist Board, which sees that a visiting businessman,

satisfied by local services, could well re-visit the area as a real tourist, complete with wife and family.

The drive for business tourism is linked with a campaign to attract more conferences to the county. It is not attempting to compete with the Brightons and Blackpools which have been in the business long enough to eat competitors for breakfast. Indeed, only a few miles over the county border, Harrogate (now in North Yorkshire, but which was part of the old West Riding) has long been in the conference business and still gets the plums of the business.

But Eddie Fenner, an official of the Bradford Metropolitan Council, who is acting as conference organiser, told me: "We have been given a small working budget for this work. Our aim is to offer facilities to the small conference—in the region of 200 people."

Bradford has set up a consultative group to woo conferences. It brings in five major hotels in the district—the Norfolk Gardens, the Victoria, Novotel, the Craighlands on the edge of Ilkley Moor and the Bankfield at Bingley, the little town that was the setting for John Braine's novel, *Room at the Top*. Other members are Bradford University, able to offer spartan, but useful, accommodation during vacations and the city's Chamber of Commerce.

Conferences

Bradford has been reasonably successful already. The council held a lunch, inviting secretaries and organisers of local conferences, and national organisations in an attempt to persuade them to bring small conferences to the city. One organisation attracted by this approach was a group of dealers in antique dolls and miniature furniture. It brought buyers from all over Britain to the St. George's Hall, the city's handsome 18th century assembly room, and good business was done with local people.

Bradford also hosted last year's Methodist Conference and the annual meeting of a hospital workers' group. Ilkley, the little moorland town which is part of Bradford metropolitan district and described by the city's chief executive as "the jewel in Bradford's crown" has attracted many conferences, including the annual delegate meeting of the National Union of Journalists.

West Yorkshire County Council officials at Wakefield are optimistic about tourism. They believe that an industrial past, old mills set amid wild moorland, canals that were once the key to a great manufacturing nation, can be sold to people on holiday.

They point to the 100,000 people who visited Bradford's industrial museum last year, without any national publicity, and the growing numbers who turn up for a ride on the Worth Valley Steam Railway at

Keighley on the edge of the Bronte Country.

West Yorkshire is famous walking country. It includes many miles of the Pennine Way. Recently local walking organisations got together to do something about a splendid stretch of Calderdale—the county district with the old textile and engineering town of Halifax as its centre—which was well known to local ramblers, but little-known outside the county, except for names like Mytholmroyd and Luddendenfoot, which BBC newscasters always mispronounce.

The Pennine Way is for experienced walkers and climbers. "Don't chance it without a map and a compass," say the tourist authorities. Now local Sunday afternoon walkers have a new route, the Calderdale Way, officially opened recently by Lord Winstanley, chairman of the Countryside Commission.

It is a 50-mile circular walk in dramatic moor and hill scenery, but never far away from a town. The county council, through job creation schemes, cleared miles of undergrowth, built new paths and new walls. With more and more farms and houses providing overnight accommodation, the county believes that in a few years it will be a number one tourist attraction.

Meanwhile, West Yorkshire's

tourist highlight, the Bronte Country, continues to prosper. It was visited by 200,000 people from all over the world last year. On a recent mid-winter Monday, the whole countryside looking like a miniature Switzerland, you could find Americans, Japanese, Germans and Danes trying to plot a course out to Wuthering Heights, almost lost in the snow.

County council planners believe that West Yorkshire is due for a boom in tourism. Shortly a Government inquiry will decide whether the Leeds-Bradford Airport, air link for the whole county, will get its longer runway, a controversy which has raged for several years keeping the biggest jet aircraft away from the county.

A county councillor said: "If we get it we shall be another international airport. If we don't we'll have the biggest and most expensive private airport in the country." The informed guesses are that Leeds-Bradford will get its longer runway.

Then, the tourism business feels, the way will be open for a real bite at continental tourism and certainly a share in the shopping market with all Leeds and Bradford has to offer in smart department stores, big supermarkets and a gateway to some of the best countryside in Britain.

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Five to Fifteen Years

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Over Fifteen Years

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